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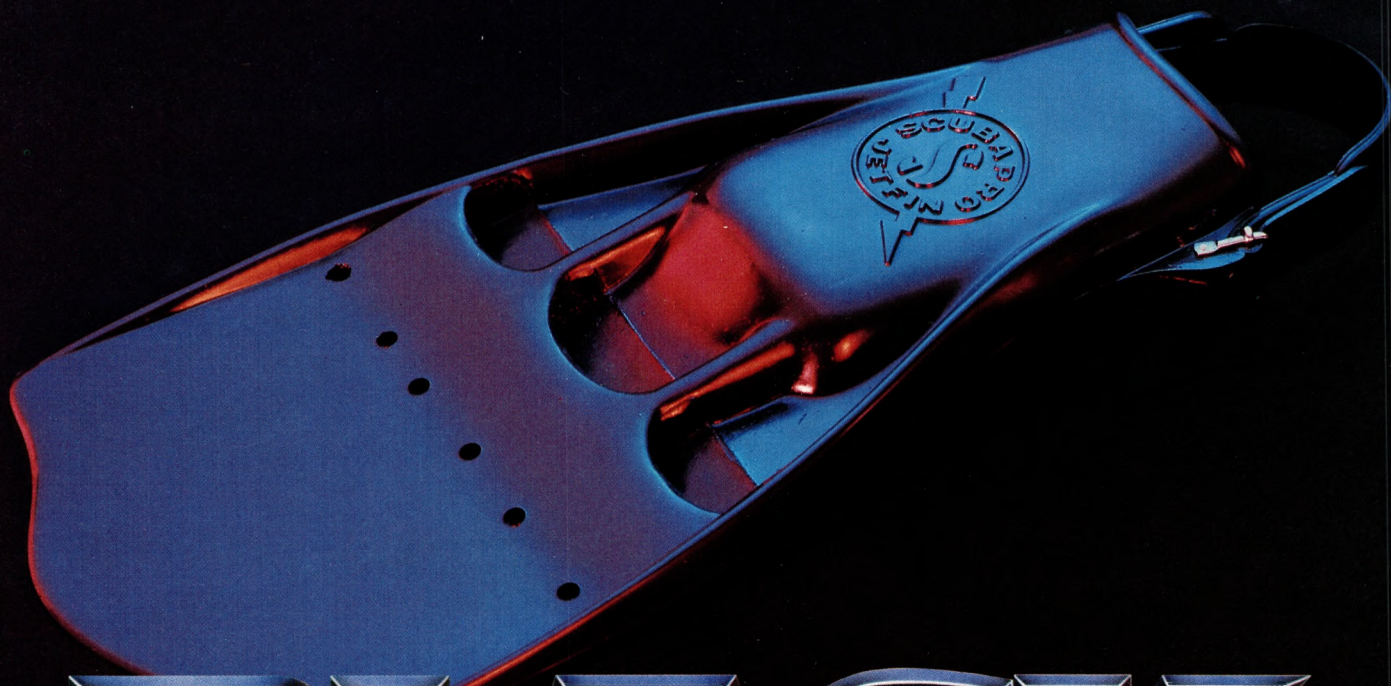
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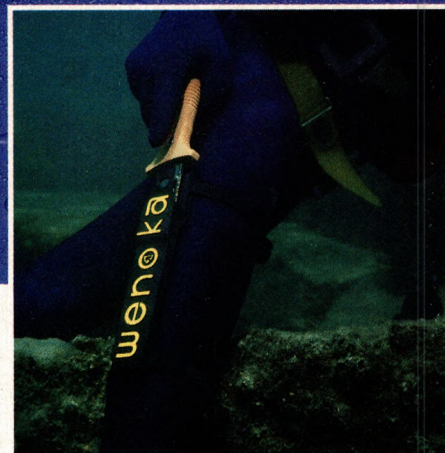


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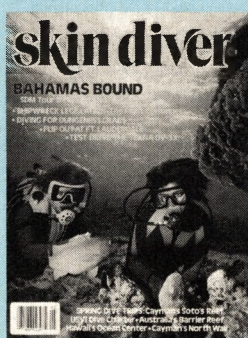
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skin diver

Volume Thirty-four Number Five

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COVER

Maura Brassil (the National Manager of Sports Promotion for the Bahamas Tourist Office) and Barbara Doernbach feed a bright yellow coney in shallow water off the island of Rum Cay. The photograph was taken by Stephen Frink using a Nikonos V, 15 mm lens, Subsea Mark 150 strobe and Fujichrome 50.

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SDM Editorial

BY THE PUBLISHER



SPRING BODY TUNE UP

Spring is the time tens-of-thousands of veteran divers begin dragging their scuba gear out of mothballs for another season. Tank pressures are gauged, regulators repaired and fresh wetsuit cement purchased as the general hose flexing process commences.

Unfortunately, the diving gear is usually in a lot better shape than the user! Flabby muscles and short wind could cause that first outing to be a narrow escape, instead of fun.

This editorial is not meant to be another one of those drills, with a lineup of 21 Do's and Don'ts. You've already gone through all of that in scuba class. Let's approach this problem with a little bit of common sense and a realistic appraisal of our own physical condition.

A long time ago, the U.S. Navy found that drownings accounted for 90 percent of the dive fatalities—and many of these could be traced back to one primary cause—overexertion. Overexertion, and subsequent exhaustion, can lead to a variety of problems including cramps, extreme fatigue, nausea, increasing weakness, panic, unconsciousness.

Taking this overexertion problem a step further, most scuba instructors, club divemasters and charter boat skippers have learned that the most hazardous time of the year is the beginning of the season. Last year's veterans return gung-ho for that first splashdown, failing to realize the terrific toll that has been taken

on their muscles from months of inactivity and eating munchies in front of the TV set. They see themselves as the super-divers of yesteryear, stroking 100 yards with doubles and never taking a second breath. Much to their amazement and horror, they discover their bodies are not operating on all cylinders and wind has evaporated like last week's martini!

How does one combat overexertion? It takes three basic tools: knowledge, physical stamina and a healthy respect for the sea. Modern divers get their knowledge in scuba class and also a taste of that stamina during pool practice. The knowledge generally sticks with them for a lifetime, but physical stamina begins to fade as soon as they stop swimming. There are no shortcuts—muscles have to work; lungs must fully cycle and the heart pump strongly, in order to maintain stamina. Inactivity is stamina's worst enemy. That is why the YMCA has gone to all the trouble of building so many swimming pools.

Now we come to that third important tool: a healthy respect for the sea. It is time to take stock—an honest appraisal of your physical condition. Are you fit enough to swim in the waters you plan to visit? Forget how well you could dive last year, what about right now? You can certainly find out in a hurry; visit a neighborhood pool this week.

How much is enough? Rather than become entangled in a complicated discussion of minimum distance requirements, I think it is enough to say every diver knows the minimum requirements for his/her kind of diving. Since water conditions are not standardized across the country, it hardly seems reasonable that we could formulate a realistic standard for nationwide application. For example, compare the warm, quiet waters of a

shallow Bahamian reef with the boiling surf and strong currents Malibu, California. Little old ladies in tennis sneakers can snorkel about the Bahamian reef, while it often requires a lifeguard-type athlete to brave the thunderous waters of the West.

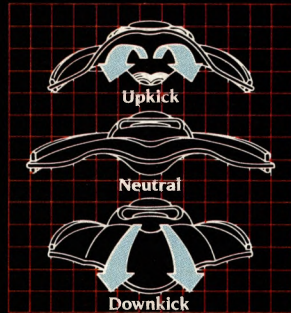
Personally, I believe a diver should be able to swim one-quarter mile in eight minutes or less with fins and mask. That is approximately 22 laps of a standard 20 yard YMCA pool. The eight minute time is maximum and this can be trimmed considerably by a diver in good shape. The quarter mile minimum is a good way to prepare for open water diving in such places as Catalina Island, New Jersey's offshore wrecks, oil rig diving in the Gulf, or some deep reef work off the Keys.

Scuba instructors require more exercise because their roles are much more demanding. They may be called upon to do hard work at depth, drag bulky equipment around underwater, or rescue a fellow diver. For this kind of physical stamina, a half-mile swim in 15 minutes is not asking too much. Again, this is with just mask and fins. There are dozens of other minimums which could be cited, but it all boils down to exercise.

Skin and scuba diving is still one of the safest watersports in America. We lose fewer than 120 persons annually, many of whom are not physically capable of coping with the rigors of open water diving, or blissful practitioners who have forgotten how rough the ocean can be. The number of divers lost is comparatively minute when compared to the estimated 7,000 swimming accidents in the U.S. each year. Yes, diving is a safe sport—so let's keep it that way. If you are planning to rekindle that old flame for diving, why not tune up first? 

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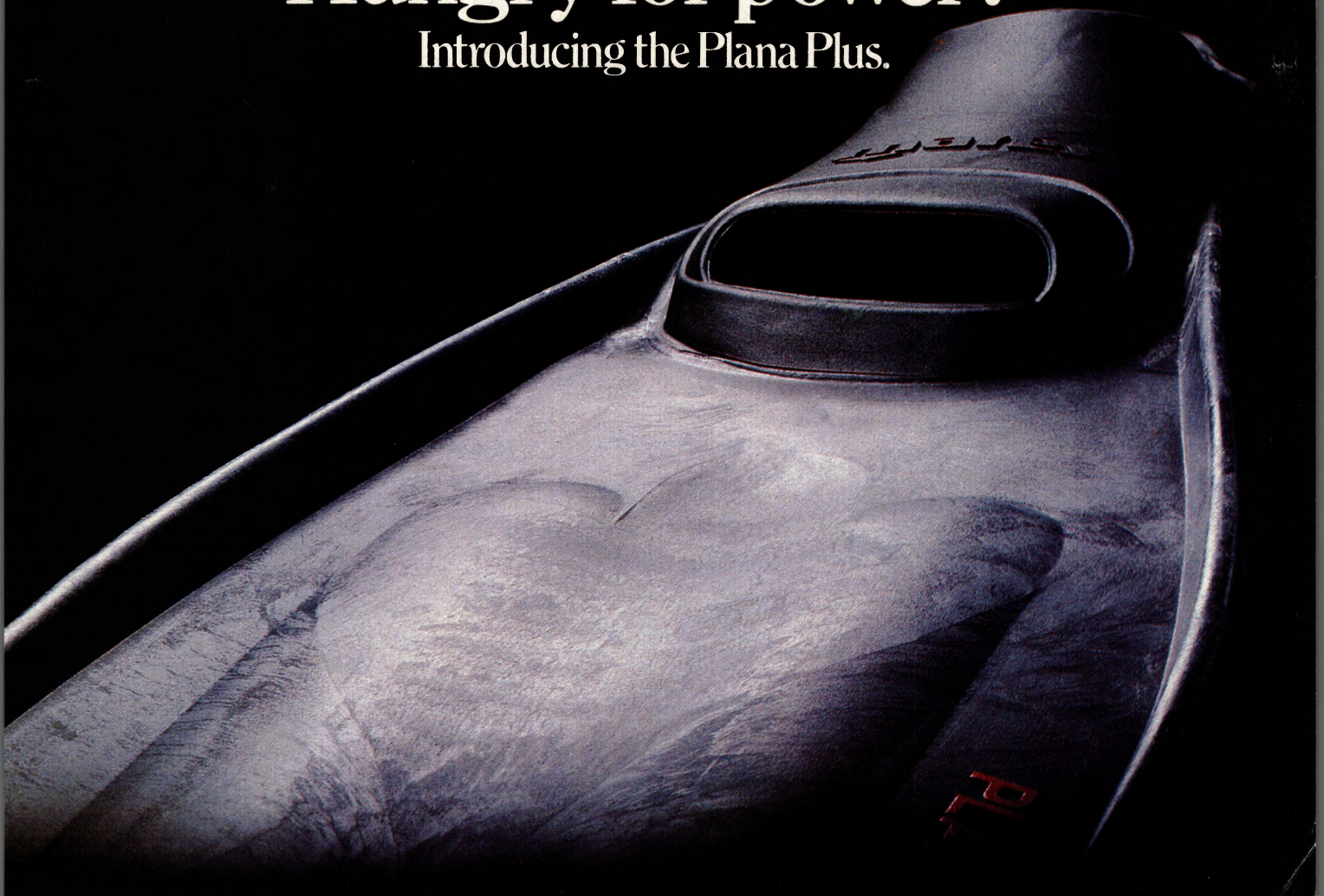
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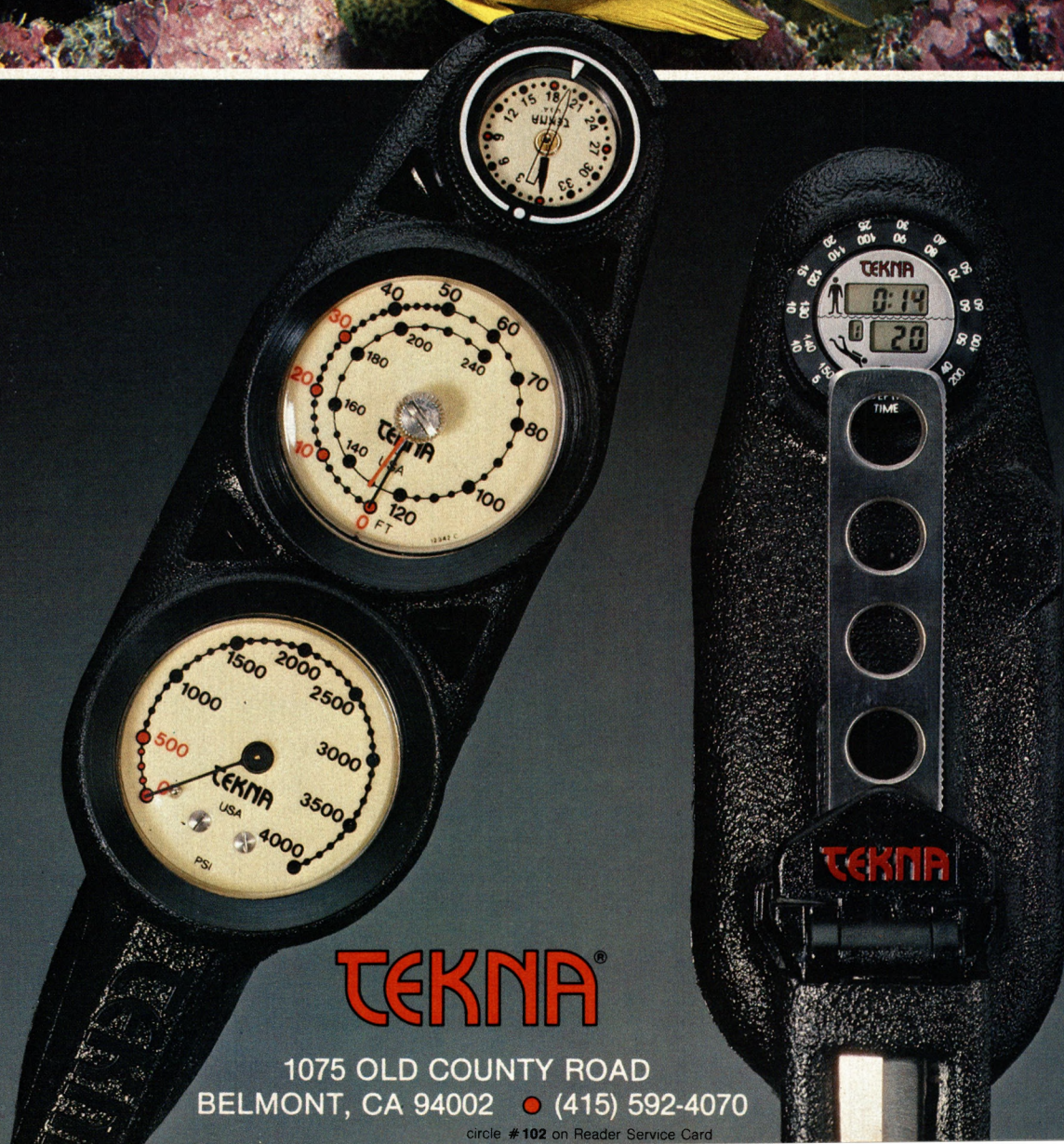
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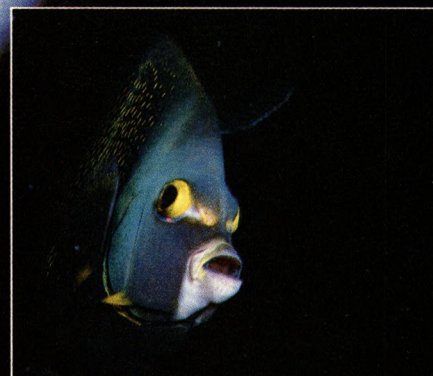
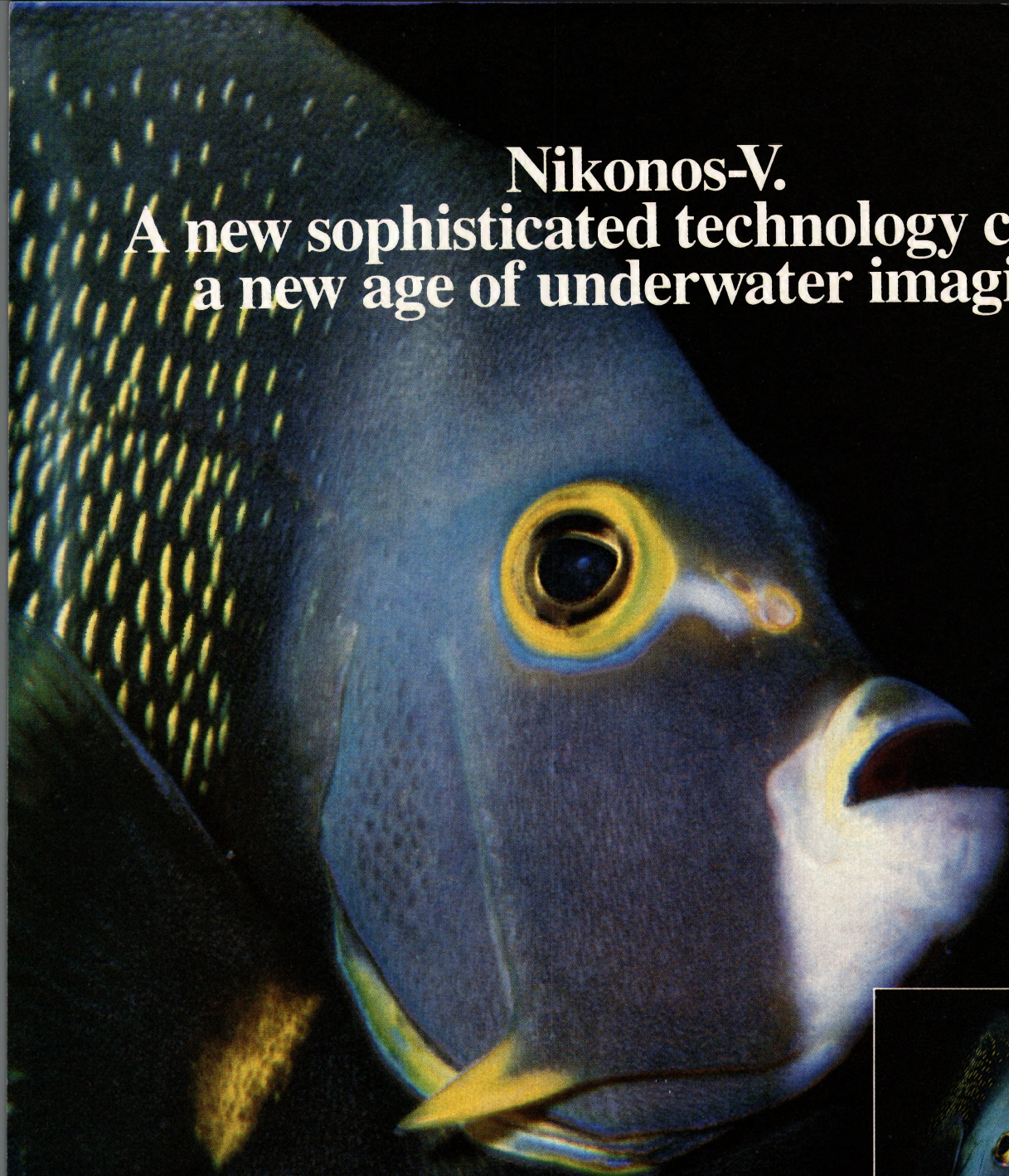
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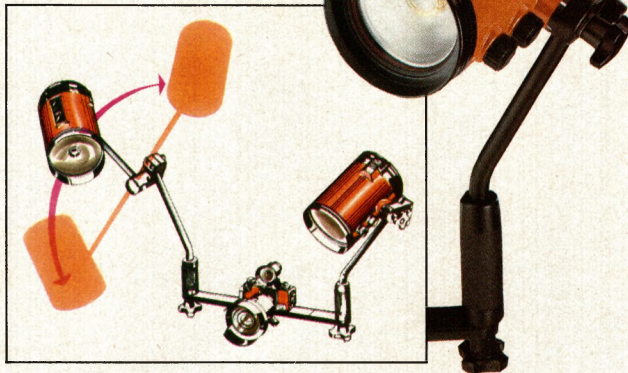
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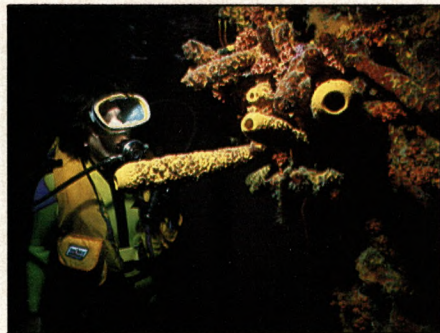
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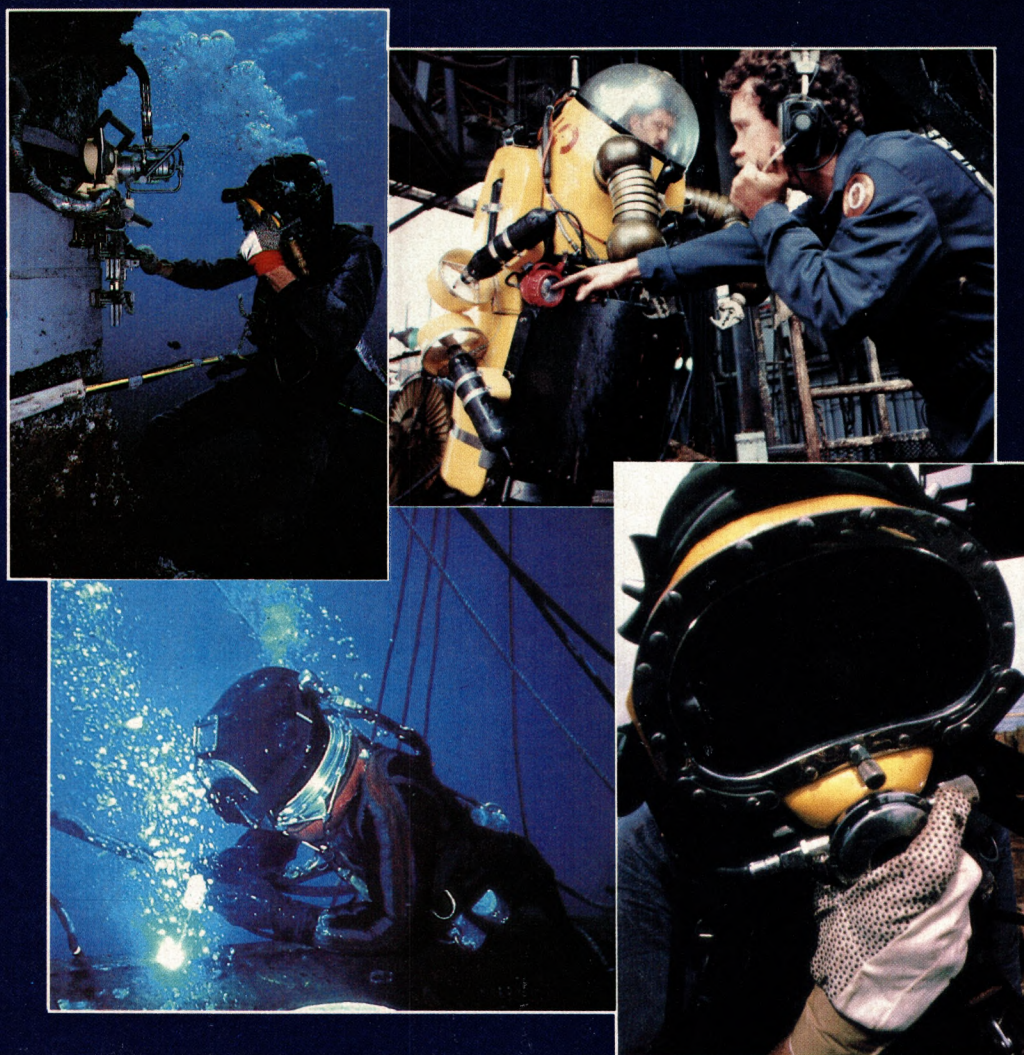
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Scuba Quiz

Category: Diving Skills

By Dennis Graver

Topic: Buddy Breathing

Buddy breathing, which for the purposes of this quiz is the sharing of air by exchanging a single regulator, is a controversial topic in diving and has been for years. Are you familiar with the current policies and recommended procedures for buddy breathing? Here's your chance to find out. The answers are on the following page.

1. Select the order of preference for the following emergency procedures.

- ☐ A. Emergency swimming ascent, extra second stage, buddy breathing
- ☐ B. Buddy breathing, extra second stage, emergency swimming ascent
- ☐ C. Extra second stage, emergency swimming ascent, buddy breathing
- ☐ D. Emergency swimming ascent, buddy breathing, extra second stage

2. Studies show that when divers establish contact to initiate buddy breathing they usually:

- ☐ A. Stop swimming
- ☐ B. Fail to control buoyancy
- ☐ C. Are unsuccessful
- ☐ D. Hold their breath while ascending

3. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- ☐ A. The receiver of air should grasp the donor with the right hand while grasping the regulator with the left hand
- ☐ B. The donor of air should take two breaths before giving the regulator to the receiver initially
- ☐ C. If buddy breathing is initiated on the bottom, a regular pattern of exchange should be established before ascending

4. During the initial exchange of the regulator it is recommended that the receiver take:

- ☐ A. One breath
- ☐ B. Two breaths
- ☐ C. Three breaths
- ☐ D. Four breaths

5. Select the correct statement regarding control of the regulator second stage while buddy breathing.

- ☐ A. The donor controls the regulator and places it at the receiver's mouth during exchanges
- ☐ B. The donor gives the regulator to the receiver during exchanges and then retrieves it to continue breathing
- ☐ C. The donor holds the regulator continuously while the receiver guides it into his or her own mouth
- ☐ D. The receiver holds the regulator continuously while the donor guides the regulator into the donor's mouth

6. Select the most important rule of buddy breathing:

- ☐ A. Look up during the ascent
- ☐ B. Control buoyancy during ascent
- ☐ C. Exhale when the regulator is not in the mouth
- ☐ D. All of the above are equally important

7. Which of the following methods of sealing the mouthpiece while buddy breathing is preferred:

- ☐ A. Pressing the lips against the mouthpiece
- ☐ B. Inserting the mouthpiece in one side of the mouth and then into the other side
- ☐ C. Inserting the mouthpiece into the mouth all at once
- ☐ D. Inserting the top of the mouthpiece into the mouth and then inserting the bottom

8. When a buddy breathing ascent is initiated, it should be maintained until:

- ☐ A. The receiver feels he or she has enough air to make it to the surface
- ☐ B. The surface can be seen
- ☐ C. A depth of 10 feet is reached
- ☐ D. Reaching the surface

9. Buddy breathing (as defined herein) is currently taught by all major diver training agencies.

- ☐ A. True
- ☐ B. False

10. Buddy breathing proficiency should be maintained by practicing the skill:

- ☐ A. Frequently in a swimming pool
- ☐ B. Just beneath the surface in open water at the start of a dive
- ☐ C. During ascent in open water at the end of the dive
- ☐ D. During skill review sessions in continuing education diving courses

Scuba Quiz

Answers: Diving Skills—Buddy Breathing

1. A. Emergency swimming ascent, extra second stage, buddy breathing. Although the choice of which procedure to use will be influenced by depth and other factors, it is generally agreed that independent action via an emergency ascent is preferred when possible. If that is not feasible, sharing air with an extra second stage is the appropriate choice. Buddy breathing is considered the least desirable option because it is a complex, two handed skill involving two people.

2. A. Stop swimming. Studies at UCLA show that when divers swim to each other and initiate buddy breathing they tend to cease swimming movements and sink to the bottom. This is not the correct or the desirable action because buddy breathing is to be used to ascend. By being aware of this tendency, which results from perceptual narrowing, you may be able to avoid it.

3. B. The donor of air should take two breaths before giving the regulator to the receiver initially. This is incorrect. The receiver has exhaled, received no air with attempted inspiration and is badly starved for air. Seconds matter. The donor can start with air in the lungs, so need not prepare to share air. The regulator should be passed to the receiver instantly to prevent a panic situation by overcoming the strong urge to breathe which occurs when the lungs are empty.

4. D. Four breaths. Two breaths is the established number for buddy breathing, but that is for the regular rhythm maintained after the initial exchange. The receiver needs to recover from respiratory difficulty and studies have shown divers are more successful in executing buddy breathing ascents when the receiver gets four initial breaths than when only two are received. Get your buddy to agree to this procedure.

5. C. The donor holds the regulator continuously while the receiver guides it into his or her own mouth. Maintaining control of the regulator is essential on the part of the donor. There is a tendency for donors to try to "feed" air to the receiver, but this should be avoided. During practice in shallow water, have your buddy attempt to take the regulator from you so you can learn what is needed to maintain control. Be sure to establish needed signals to ensure safety for this exercise.

6. C. Exhale when the regulator is not in the mouth. Breath-holding with compressed air in the lungs can result in a lung expansion injury, which is extremely serious. The principal rule of scuba diving is, "Avoid breath-holding," and this applies to buddy breathing situations. The other rules mentioned are important as well.

7. A. Pressing the lips against the mouthpiece. Inserting the mouthpiece fully into the mouth takes time and often causes the mask to leak. By pursing your lips and "kissing" the mouthpiece, you can get a good seal, speed up exchanges and even make the exercise more sanitary. If you haven't used this technique, give it a try.

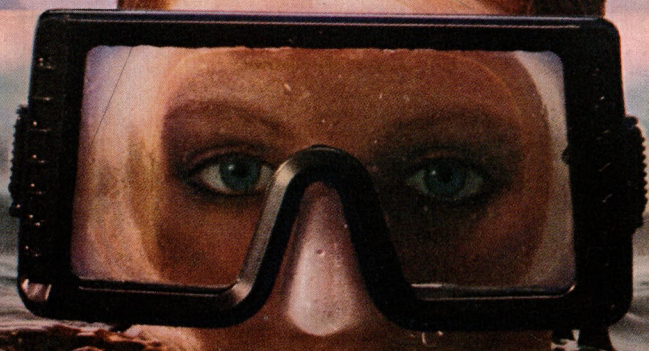
8. D. Reaching the surface. Accident reports on buddy breathing suggest one of the problem areas is the abandoning of buddy breathing during ascent. When an exchange rhythm has been established, maintain it throughout the ascent. This should be an agreed upon procedure by buddies.

9. False. Not all certification agencies teach air sharing by the exchange of a single regulator. You may have a buddy who does not know how to buddy breathe, so you need to discuss emergency procedures.

10. Any answer is acceptable, although C should be done under the supervision of an instructor. The concept is that buddy breathing can only be effective if skill proficiency is maintained. This requires frequent practice. When it is ineffective, it is because the unsuccessful divers have not renewed the skill. It can be a viable emergency option, but only if the parties applying it have practiced it together recently.

You may not agree with all of the answers, but they represent a consensus of opinion by many of the leading diving educators. Today's technology—extra second stages, emergency breathing systems and pony bottles—could make buddy breathing obsolete, but this hasn't happened yet because the majority of divers have not made the investment in the additional life support equipment. Without this equipment, you may need to buddy breathe in an emergency. Make sure you are able to perform the skill safely and comfortably with each and every one of your buddies. I hope you will invest in some back-up scuba equipment or that you will practice buddy breathing regularly as if your life depended on it.

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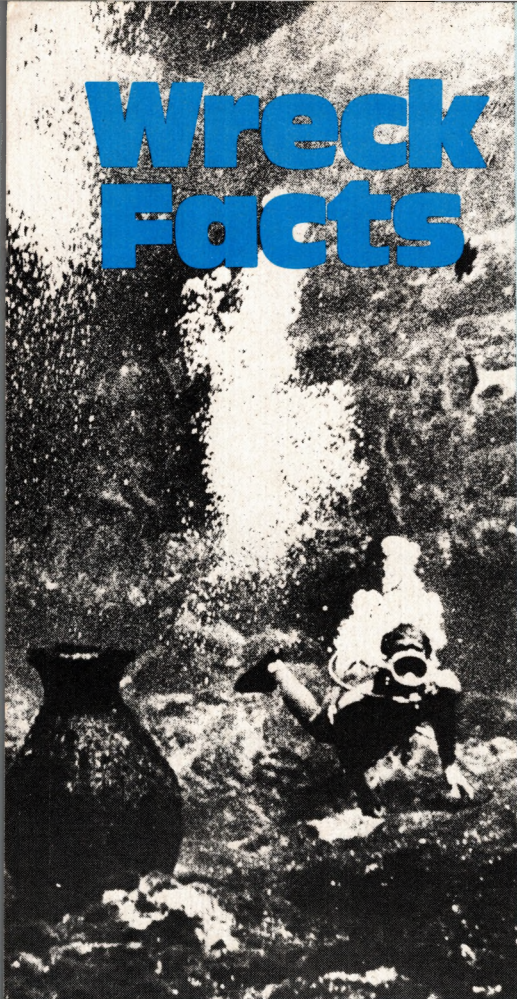
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SS-306

Wreck Facts



BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

Florida Congressman Charles Bennett is as predictable as death and taxes and just as ominous. He introduced another anti-shipwreck diving bill on the very first day of the new legislative session. We predicted this in the February issue of SDM, urging divers, dive store operators, charter boat captains, training organizations and equipment manufacturers to gear up for the next round.

This time the fight is against H.R. 25, the "Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1985"—basically the same as H.R. 3194, the bill divers defeated last year. Our battle plan will be exactly the same as before. We'll write to our Congressmen and Senators.

Bennett, if you will recall, is the politician who was quoted in a Florida newspaper as calling all divers "looters," while sponsoring an asinine bill that called for a \$10,000 fine for a diver bringing up an artifact from a historical wreck.

Bennett is accompanied by Texas Congressman Jim Wright, who co-sponsored H.R. 25. Wright is the House Majority Leader and wants to succeed Tip O'Neill as House Speaker. Wright was prodded by Fred Wendorf, head of the Texas Antiquities Committee, to push for legislation to rule divers off Texas shipwrecks. (Texas divers please take note!) Wright

joined forces with Texas Senators Tower and Bentsen and that's how anti-shipwreck legislation wormed its way into a Senate sub-committee last year.

Politicians who know nothing about diving pulled a lot of sneak plays last year and unfortunately, history has a way of repeating itself. Last year's bureaucratic nightmare was manipulated and contrived and continues on the same course. H.R. 25 was referred immediately to the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee where Bennett and Wright figure there will be little opposition. The bill will move swiftly and methodically to the House floor, therefore we must act quickly.

To simplify the write-in process, you might write one letter and make photo or carbon copies of it. Then send it to your Congressmen and Senators. Tell them you strongly oppose H.R. 25 and its Senate counterpart. The Senators are especially important because that is where we won the battle last year. Remember, we don't need these bills because historic shipwrecks are already protected by Admiralty Law, the Marine Sanctuaries Act and anything inside a United States National Park system. The diving community has legitimate concerns that have been totally ignored by people such as Bennett and Wright. Congress has wasted thousands of hours dabbling with frivolous shipwreck legislation while serious problems have gone unattended.

If legislation is passed, divers will be regulated off wrecks they have discovered. Divers yearn to retain free enterprise and their right to dive shipwrecks without state and government harassment in the form of licenses, permits and unfair restrictions. If legislation passes, shipwreck divers will lose interest in diving, many dive shops will go out of business and diving equipment manufacturers will suffer. We must band together and express our concerns now—don't put it off, write today! For Congressmen: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. For Senators: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Jack Chew, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, asks if readers have any bona fide information on a submarine sunk in deep water north of Hillsboro Inlet. Jack writes: "Rick Horgan and I would like to settle this once and for all. Several people are supposed to have first-hand knowledge of the sinking, but we can't locate any of them. Does anyone know where we can find Eddie Malinowski? He used to own Diver's Haven and is supposed to know something about the sub. Steve Singer has a list of some of the old coast watchers who were assigned to the port during World War II and claim to have witnessed the sinking. But the story was the same when he talked with them—no concrete information." Divers may contact Jack at 1246 S.E. 13th Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316.

Phil Hyde has been involved in nautical archaeology for over 10 years and has amassed a number of out-of-print books on shipwrecks, treasure and pirates in which divers might be interested. Phil left Connecticut and now lives in Florida. Write to him at 456 Drage Drive, Apopka, FL 32703.

Kevin Firth, Box R47794, Buena Vista, CO 81211, has written articles for the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society about the steamer, *Illinois* and the WW I German sub *UC-97*, sunk in Lake Michigan. Kevin will be glad to answer questions about these wrecks. Enclose a stamped envelope if you write to him.

Homer Hickam, Huntsville, Alabama, had a two part article published in *American History Illustrated* about the *U-85*, a German U-boat wrecked off Nags Head, North Carolina. The article uses information not previously available to researchers. It details events leading to the sinking of the sub by the destroyer, *Roper*, in April 1942.

West Coast divers have been waiting patiently for Don Marshall's new book, *Oregon Shipwrecks*. The 235 page publication, with over 100 photos, chronicles

Oregon Shipwrecks



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the fascinating stories of Oregon's seafaring days. Marshall traces over 200 years of ship disasters including steamers, cargo and passenger vessels, schooners and square-riggers. He writes an in-depth report about one of the greatest mysteries of all, Oregon's famous Beeswax Ship. The book and a catalogue of other publications, including Marshall's *California Shipwrecks*, may be ordered from Polly Gardenier, Binford and Mort Publishing, Box 42368, Portland, Oregon 97242.

(Continued on Page 128)

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Diver's Calendar

May 3 Stan Waterman will present several of his films in Syracuse, NY. Sponsored by the National Aquatic Service, all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Diver's Alert Network (DAN). (Contact: National Aquatic Service, 1732 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse, NY 13210; (315) 479-5544)

May 4 Princeton Scuba Club Auction and Equipment Swap at the Princeton Junction Firehouse, Princeton Junction, NJ. Swap starts at 1:00 pm and auction at 3:00 pm. (Contact: Princeton Scuba Club, P.O. Box 160, Princeton, NJ 08550)

May 11 The Northern California Chapter of the Underwater Photographic Society will present Sea '85, its 21st International Film Festival, at the Paramount Theatre of the Arts in Oakland, CA. Films by Stan Waterman and Jack McKenney will be shown and Dr. John McCosker will be MC. (Contact: Paramount Box Office, 2025 Broadway St., Oakland, CA 94612; (415) 465-6400)

May 17-19 Our World-Underwater exhibition at the Hyatt Regency-Chicago and Medinah Temple, Chicago, IL. (Contact: Our World-Underwater, P.O. Box 4428, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 664-4971)

May 17-19 Fifth Annual Underwater Investigations Seminar, sponsored by the Hamilton County Police Association Underwater Search and Recovery Unit at the Radisson Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. (Contact: Det. Michael D. Wylie, Amberly Village P.D., (513) 531-2040; or Spec. Al Gille, Deer Park Police, (513) 791-8056)

May 18 Convair Scuba Club will present the Fifth Annual Diver's Day, featuring lectures, films, symposiums and gear displays at General Dynamics' Missile Park, San Diego, CA. (Contact: Bill Prichard, 9115 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123; (619) 573-3745)

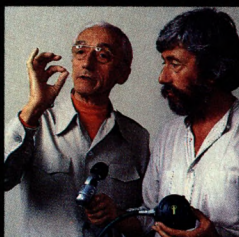
May 19 Swap Meet sponsored by SE-CONN Divers, to be held at the Polish-American Club, Monteville, CT. (Contact: Bill (203) 447-2564)

May 19-25 International Society of Aquatic Medicine annual meeting at the Flamingo Beach Hotel, Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles. (Contact: Michael Rosco, M.D., 1127 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 809, Los Angeles, CA 90017)

May 25-27 The 16th Annual Bad Medicine Lake Dive Festival, sponsored by Northwest Divers, at Veronen's Resort, Bad Medicine Lake, MN. Door prizes, topside and U/W games and contests. (Contact: Northwest Divers, 1701 North 11th St., Moorhead, MN 56560; (218) 233-6088)

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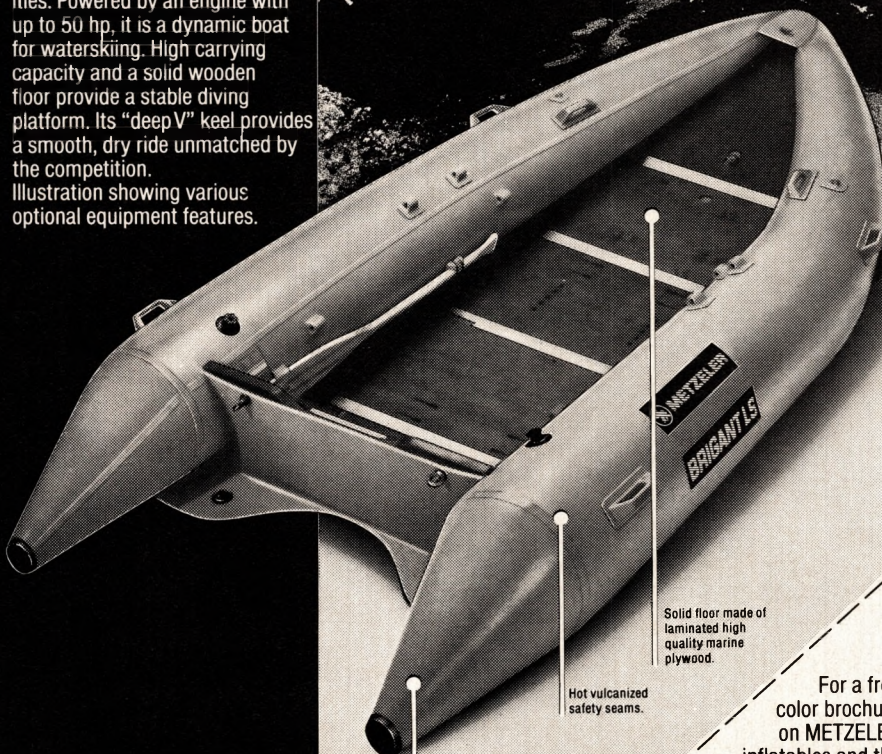
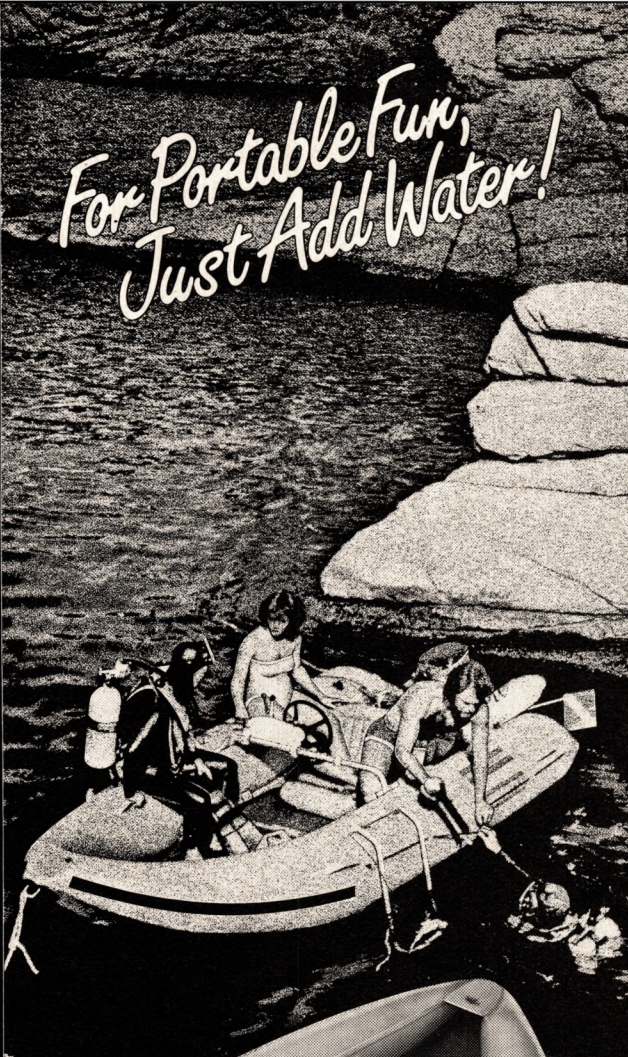
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FOR DIVERS

BY FRED BOVE, M.D., PH.D.

In January of this year, we conducted our annual diving medicine program. During this we spent several days discussing diving safety with Dr. Glenn Egstrom of UCLA. He is an expert on diving equipment, training and water safety. His research has contributed significantly to the excellent safety record we enjoy in sport diving. Important topics of discussion included:

Buoyancy—Use of buoyancy control devices (BCs) has made diving easier for those who have difficulty establishing neutral buoyancy. They have, however, brought some new problems. For example, if your BC contains air while you are underwater, you must be careful you do not ascend rapidly. If the BC is not emptied as you rise, the expansion of gas during ascent (remember Boyle's law) may produce a rapid increase in buoyancy and an accelerating rate of ascent. The effects of an out of control buoyant ascent are lung overpressure and air embolism. Be sure you remove air from the BC when you ascend and avoid ascending out of control. Also, check your flotation posture on the surface with the BC inflated. Some jacket type BCs can position the diver face down in the water.

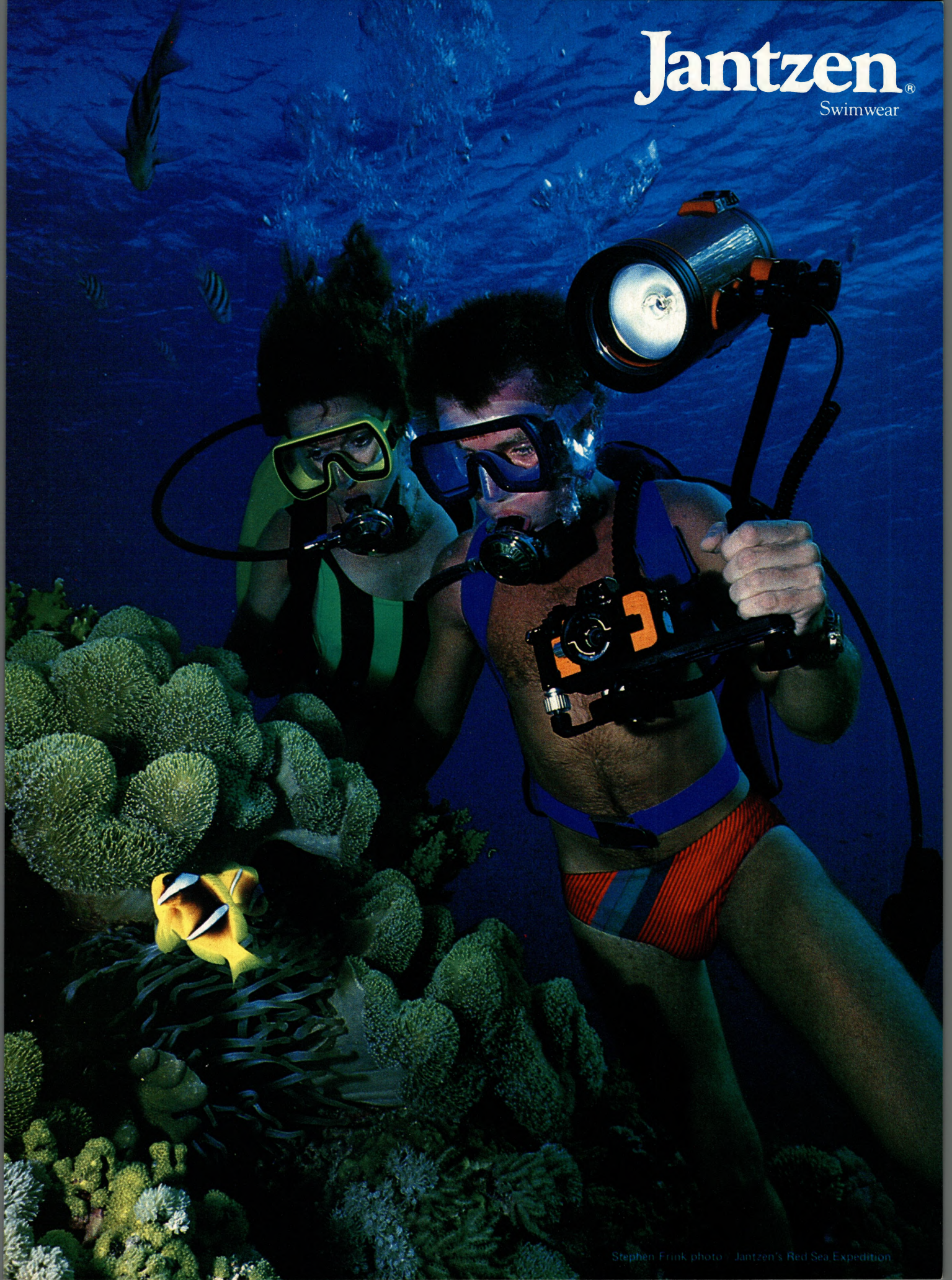
Vertigo—Beware of alternobaric vertigo. When the pressure or temperature in one ear differs from that of the other, you will get vertigo. Common causes include passing through a thermocline in a way that subjects one ear to colder water than the other; lifting a wetsuit hood on one side, allowing cold water to reach only one ear; and rupturing one eardrum on descent and having cold water enter the middle ear. The vertigo can cause disorientation and vomiting. This combination can result in panic and drowning.

Weightbelts—Failure to ditch a weightbelt seems to be a common accompaniment of fatal sport scuba accidents. Dr. Egstrom's research indicates



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Rx FOR DIVERS

that you may not be able to remove your weightbelt when it becomes necessary. Often, when the decision to ditch a weightbelt is made, the diver is already in a near panic state and not able to act properly. For example, if your backpack and weightbelt buckles are the same type you can easily be confused and open the backpack buckle by mistake. Now you have a tank floating above your head to add to your problems. Try wearing the two belts in ways that allow the buckles to open in opposite directions (remember which is the weightbelt buckle!). Does your weightbelt rotate around your waist during a dive? If that occurs, you may not find the buckle when you need it most. Leaving a length of belt extending from the buckle is another bad habit—it has to go through the buckle in an emergency and is likely to jam. Trim your belt to the proper length. Four or five inches of belt beyond the buckle is adequate. Do not solve the problem by tucking the long loose end under the belt. The best way to ditch your weightbelt is to carefully remove it, hold it away from you and let it go. Do not let the loop slide down your legs; it may snag on your knife or fins.

Octopus regulators also pose some interesting problems. I have always been dismayed at the "Christmas tree" approach to diving where regulator, gauge console and numerous other appurtenances hang randomly from the diver. In coral, kelp and wrecks these often snag and must be disengaged. Dragging in sand, the octopus second stage will become clogged and unusable. If the regulator is jammed open by debris, you will lose your air supply rapidly. Keep your gauges and hoses anchored in convenient, accessible locations. Remember also, when a single high pressure first stage supplies two second stage regulators, two divers should alternate breaths on the two regulators to avoid a large pressure drop in the first stage.

Our diving equipment constitutes a life support system. We depend on it to perform safely in the underwater environment. Failure of any component can result in a serious accident. Yet, we know that 85-90 percent of diving accidents occur because of human error. You can depend on your equipment, but you must use it properly.

Note: Over the past three years, we have answered numerous letters. The most common problem encountered (17 percent of all queries) involved ear difficulties with diving. Since ears contain air spaces and delicate membranes that are easily injured by pressure changes, they will continue to be a problem for all divers. It is important to understand how your ears are affected by diving and to pay careful attention to their health.

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JOINT DIVE MEDICINE CONFERENCE

A joint meeting of the Undersea Medical Society (UMS) and the Clinical Hyperbaric Conference will take place June 11-14 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach, CA. Combining the conferences is expected to complement the goals of both disciplines. The program will include technical and scientific sessions for specialists as well as generalists in underwater medicine and hyperbaric oxygen therapy. It is open to anyone interested in the exchange of information on current research and practices in these disciplines.

Rounding out the scientific and technical sessions is a complete social agenda. A traditional feature is the annual awards banquet at which individuals are honored for contributions in the field. This is scheduled for June 13. A diving trip and tour of the Catalina Island marine facilities and visits to the College of Oceanography and the hyperbaric facility of the Memorial Medical Center will also be offered.

For more information contact Lyn Teven, UMS, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. 

SEA VENTURES '85

This year's Sea Ventures Expo, dedicated to helping the consumer-retail market learn more about scuba diving, boardsailing, surfing, waterskiing, power boating, fishing, jet skiing, rafting, kayaking and other watersports, will be held at the San Jose Convention Center, San Jose, California, June 20-23. The show will feature exhibits, films, seminars and fashion shows.

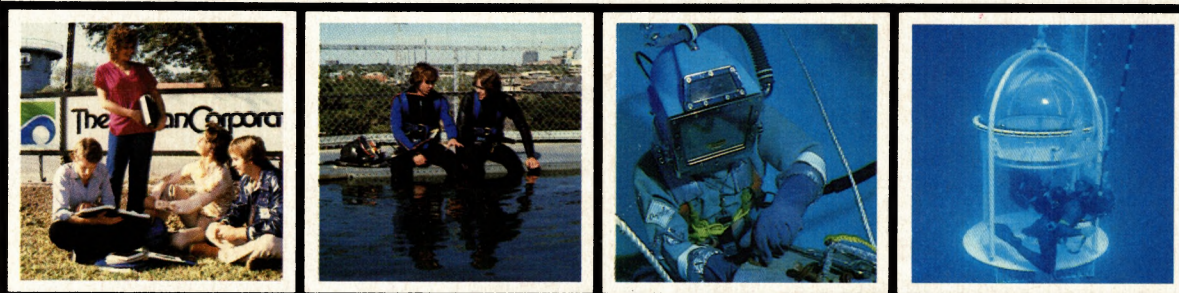
For more information contact Sea Ventures, 200 S. Catalina, # 107, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. 

MULTI-LEVEL DIVING STUDY

The University of Michigan Underwater Technology Laboratory is gathering data on multi-level diving techniques and practices from questionnaires returned by divers. Information is requested on the techniques used for such dives and on typical dive profiles.

Those interested in participating in the study can obtain questionnaires from Karl E. Huggins, Research Associate, Underwater Technology Lab, Space Research Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2143. The results of the study will be available to participants. 

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Photos by LARRY CUSHMAN

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SD-55

INTERNATIONAL U/W PHOTO COMPETITION

In addition to its usual photo contest, the Houston Underwater Club (HUC) is sponsoring an underwater video competition this year. These will be held in conjunction with Seaspace '85, June 21-23, at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Houston, Texas. The winning video entry will be aired on the Scuba World TV series.

In addition to trophies by Robert L. Straight, The Creative Whale has provided prizes for the video competition. Tapes are limited to three and one-half minutes, with a sound track. At least two and one-half minutes must have been shot U/W. Permissible formats are one-half inch Beta, VHS or VHS-C.

For further information or a photo contest entry form, address inquiries to Seaspace U/W Video Competition, Houston Underwater Club, P.O. Box 3753, Houston, Texas 77253-3753. The deadline for entries is May 25, with judging to be held Saturday, June 1. ✉

CHURCH U/W PHOTO SEMINARS

Jim and Cathy Church will present one day photo seminars in West Chester, Pennsylvania on May 12 and in Los Angeles, California on May 25. The seminars feature multi-level instruction illustrated with live demonstrations and slide talks. Topics include U/W photo composition, creative strobe lighting including TTL, wide angle and close-ups. The talks are followed by sound/sync slide shows to reinforce concepts and to give attendees ideas for producing their own.

For information on the Pennsylvania seminar contact Dudas Diving Duds, 101 Bartram's Lane, West Chester, PA 19382 or phone Evelyn Dudas at (215) 436-0176.

For information on the Los Angeles seminar, which will be held at the Museum of Natural History, contact Marilyn Hodge, Los Angeles UPS, 10329 Monte Mar Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90064 or (213) 839-1024. ✉

AQUA-NUT TREASURE HUNT

The Aqua-Nut Divers' Fifth Annual Treasure Hunt will be held on June 23 at Blue Springs, Waldron, Indiana—a quarry southeast of Indianapolis, just off Interstate 74.

In past treasure hunts, more than \$13,000 in products and services have been awarded to more than 300 divers from seven states. Those seeking more information or wishing to contribute products or services should contact: Aqua-Nut Divers, R.R. 1, Box 153-C, Clinton, IN 47842. ✉

600 miles north of the Arctic Circle, a Canadian ice breaker cuts a trail in the search for the HMS Breadalbane.



Searching for a shipwreck under the Arctic ice is not for ordinary divers. Or ordinary watches.

Temperatures reach 50° below zero. The wind chill factor: -100°F. Ice floes are a constant hazard.

For Dr. Joe MacInnis, the conditions were perfect.

In this hostile world lay a unique treasure: the HMS Breadalbane, a three-masted British barque lost in 1853 during the search for the Northwest Passage. MacInnis was determined to find her.

Using delicate sonar, he was able to pinpoint the location of the vessel 340 feet below the surface, near Beechey Island. Divers discovered one of the most perfectly preserved shipwrecks found in any ocean.

In the Arctic, ordinary divers find it difficult to function. So do ordinary watches. For the past 15 years, Dr. MacInnis, the first to dive and film under the North Pole, has chosen one watch: the Rolex Submariner.

"I've worn it everywhere. From the North Pole ... to the Red Sea."

As for the future, there are still more explorer ships resting on the Arctic floor.

A fitting challenge for Dr. Joe MacInnis and his Rolex.

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TRASH 'N TREASURE DIVE

The Atlantean Underwater Society will hold its Third Annual Trash 'n Treasure Dive at Lake Tenkiller, Gore, Oklahoma on June 15. Over \$3,500 in prizes were awarded at last year's event.

For information contact the Atlantean Underwater Society, 6229 Kingsbridge, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

U/W TREASURE HUNT

Rick's Seventh Annual Underwater Treasure Hunt, on June 9, will give divers the opportunity to win prizes and enjoy the clear waters and scenic splendor of Lake Ouachita in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The treasure hunt is conducted in a roped area of the lake extending about 300 yards (and not beyond a depth of 25 feet). Sixty "treasure ships" lie in this area, awaiting discovery by divers. Numbers on the ships correspond to prize numbers which will win divers more than \$3,000 in trips and prizes. The grand prize is a trip for two to Cozumel, Mexico.

The entry fee is only \$20 and includes a souvenir T-shirt. For more information and entry forms write Rick's Pro Dive 'N Ski Shop, 2323 N. Poplar, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114.

OUTSTANDING SHERWOOD DEALER

Scuba Sports, Miami, Florida has been named Sherwood Selpac's outstanding Southeastern scuba dealer for 1984. In an award ceremony in Las Vegas, Scuba Sports owner Lenny Panisch was cited for outstanding performance in sales, market development and service.

Since becoming a Sherwood dealer in 1977, Scuba Sports has expanded from one retail store to three. The stores are in North Miami Beach, South Miami and Plantation. Each Scuba Sports store is a full-service retail diving facility offering scuba instruction, air fills, equipment rentals, sales and repairs.

OCEAN/REEF DIVING COURSE

The Underwater Activities Program at John Pennekamp Park, Key Largo, FL has developed a course, a PADI specialty, through which a diver can be certified in ocean and reef diving. It prepares divers for the ocean covering theoretical and practical aspects.

The ocean and reef diving specialty is offered frequently at Pennekamp. The next date is June 7-9. However, classes are formed any time during the year—usually on weekends, Friday through Sunday—as long as there are three or more enrolled.

For further information, write Al Marques, Director, Underwater Activities Program, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, P.O. Box 13-M, Key Largo, Florida 33037.

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Fujichrome 400 Film Test

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM AND CATHY CHURCH

Fujichrome 400 RH is a medium-fast color slide film designed primarily for projection. Although it can also be used for making direct positive prints on Fujichrome paper and can be duplicated with Fujichrome Duplicating Film, the slide show is where Fuji 400 RH shines.

This new film has Fuji's new UDG (uniformly developing grain), L-coupler and AME (auto masking emulsion), which are also present in the the professional versions of Fujichrome films. The UDG process distributes the different size halide grains more evenly. Thus, the resulting emulsion has a finer, more uniform grain structure. The new latex-type L-coupler

packs the dye-forming color couplers in closer so the emulsion can be made thinner. This reduces light scatter, which increases image sharpness. The auto masking emulsion produces better control of the layers within the emulsion. Thus, color degradation is reduced. To sum up, the new Fujichrome is definitely superior to the older versions it replaces.

FILM SPEEDS

If you already have working knowledge of film speeds, you can skip this section. Fujichrome 400 has a film speed of ISO (or ASA) 400. ISO stands for International Standards Organization, ASA stands for

the older American Standards Association. The film speed rating numbers of these two organizations are identical. Fujichrome 400 is also rated at 27 DIN, a German film speed system.

Each time the ISO (or ASA) is doubled, the film requires half as much light (one f stop less) for an exposure. As examples, if Fujichrome 50 required f4 at 1/90 second for an exposure, Fujichrome 100 would require f5.6. Fujichrome 400, however, would require f11 because the ISO speed has been doubled three times.

As a general rule, the slower the film (the lower the ISO rating), the finer the grain. Conversely, the faster the film (the

higher the ISO rating), the more apparent the grain and the less saturated the color. Thus, U/W photographers often choose the slowest film that allows them to use acceptable apertures and shutter speeds. This is why Fuji (and other manufacturers) offer films with different ISO speeds. Fuji gives you a choice of ISO 50, 100 and 400 color slide films.

WHY USE ISO 400?

Fujichrome 400 offers three basic advantages: First, as a medium-fast film, you can take U/W pictures with light that would be too dim for slower films, such as Fujichrome 50 or 100. Second, even with abundant light and normal shutter speeds, you may need high-numbered f stops to expand depth of field if you have

FUJICHROME 400

FORMAT: 35 mm, 20 and 36 exposure cassettes

FILM SPEED: ISO/ASA 400, 27 DIN

PUSHABLE SPEEDS: up to ISO 1600

RETAIL PRICES:

Fujichrome 400 RH 135 20	\$ 7.49
Fujichrome 400 RH 135 36	\$10.18
Fujichrome 400 RH 135 20 (P.I.)*	\$11.84
Fujichrome 400 RH 135 36 (P.I.)*	\$16.03
Fujichrome mailers, 20 exp.	\$ 4.35
Processing mailers, 36 exp.	\$ 5.85

PROCESSING: CR-56 OR E-6

RESOLVING POWER:

Chart contrast 1.6:1—40 lines/mm

Chart contrast 1000:1—125 lines/mm

OPTIMUM STORAGE:

Unopened short term: below 59°F

Unopened long term: below 32°F

Processed: below 68°F and 60 percent humidity

*(P.I.)—processing mailer included.

both near and far subjects in your pictures. Third, with enough light to expose with a slower film, Fujichrome 400 could allow you to use faster shutter speeds.

Here are some examples of what ISO 400 will do: In about 35 feet of clear Caribbean water, with a smooth surface and overhead sun and a level camera angle, you can expose at about f11 to f16 at 1/60 or 1/90 second rather than the f4 to f5.6 that would be required with an ISO 50 film. If you exposed at f16 with a Nikonos 35 mm lens focused between four and five feet, depth of field extends from about three to ten feet. Or, if you wanted to stop fast action, you could expose at 1/500 second at f5.6, but depth of field would be limited to about 3.75 to 5.5 feet.

Darker conditions, however, may require Fujichrome 400 rather than Fujichrome 50 or 100. For wreck photography on overcast days, on deep wrecks or when the visibility is down, you may need ISO 400 just to get a picture with accept-

(Continued on Page 40)

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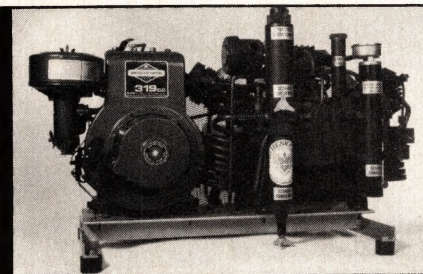
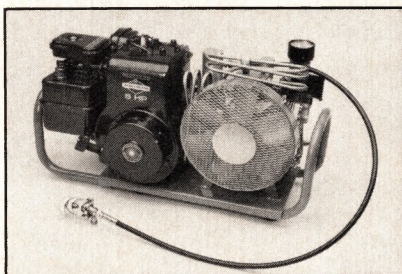
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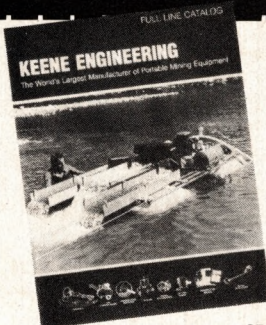
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SD

Scuba diving offers its dedicated enthusiasts a great variety of interests including photography, wreck diving, night diving and taking game. One initial reason man dove beneath the dark, unexplored waters was in search of food. With the soaring price of seafood, divers are again finding scuba diving beneficial for providing food on the table.

One delicacy of the sea found on the West Coast, the Dungeness crab, (*Cancer magister*) has ten legs including the claws; a rounded, hard, orange-brown shell top; and a pair of stalked eyes in

QUEST FOR THE DELICIOUS DUNGENESS CRAB

crab diving
at its finest

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JACK AND SUE DRAFAHL



Above: A delicious Dungeness crab dinner with all the fixings. Below: Clean crabs by lifting shell. Right: Bagging a Dungeness. Inset: Measuring crab.



front. A tail-like section is tucked tightly underneath, between the legs. The female carries eggs under this flap of a tail until they hatch and the tiny larvae swim away. The female crab has a broad U-shaped abdomen while the male has a V-shaped abdomen.

Crabs have a hard outer shell covering their entire body. This is fixed in size; in order to grow the crab must molt (shed its shell) and grow a new, larger one. Most molting occurs in May and June, although it can take place at any time during the year. After molting, the crab ab-

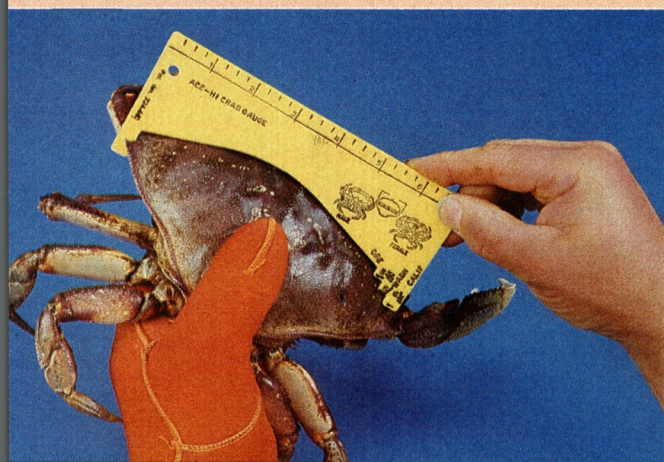
sorbs water and swells up to its new, larger size. A crab is helpless while the shell is still flexible and usually hides until its shell hardens. Crabs caught after a molt have soft shells with not much meat in them. It takes from 30-60 days for the shell to completely harden and the crab to become heavy and solid again. A soft-shelled crab is recognized by the very light color of the shell—bluish-white instead of yellowish-brown.

Two tools divers need to catch crabs are a gauge and a goodie bag. Crab gauges are made of a variety of materials

from plastic to metal. Most have measurements indicating the legal sizes for crabs in California, Washington and Oregon. On the front edge of the crab's carapace (back), between either eye and the widest point of the body, are ten distinct, serrated projections or teeth, with the tenth tooth at the widest point of the shell. The gauge is placed across the shell, immediately in front of these points. This measurement must be equal to or greater than, the required minimum.

Dungeness crabs can be a challenge to catch as they are masters of camouflage. They can often be found burrowing in the sand, in shallow water, where there is good tidal movement. The Dungeness is frequently buried in the sand. It also hides under seaweed, or other debris.

Divers tend to have the best luck crab-



GAME DIVING SERIES



DUNGENESS CRAB REGULATIONS

California—6 1/4 inches minimum size; limit of 10; either sex; fishing license required; Del Norte/Humboldt/Mendocino Counties open Dec. 1 through July 30. All others second Tuesday in Nov. through June 30. No taking in S.F. Bay and backwaters, San Pablo Bay or Golden Gate to Carquinez.

Oregon—5 3/4 inches minimum size; limit of 12; only males can be collected; no license required; Pacific Ocean closed from Sept. 16 to Nov. 30. Bays, beaches and tidepools open all year.

Washington—6 inches minimum size; limit of 6; only males can be collected; no license required; season open all year. Unlawful to take soft-shelled.

All undersized crabs or restricted females must be returned quickly to the water unharmed. Be sure to check local fish and game requirements.

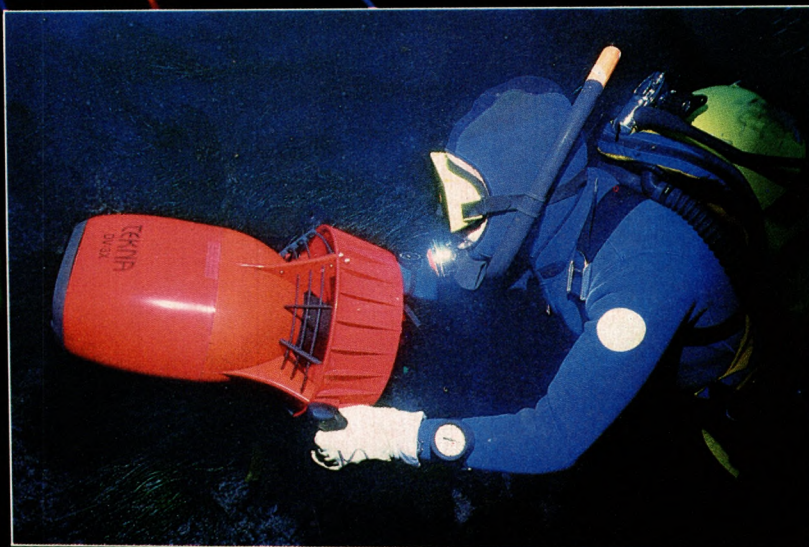
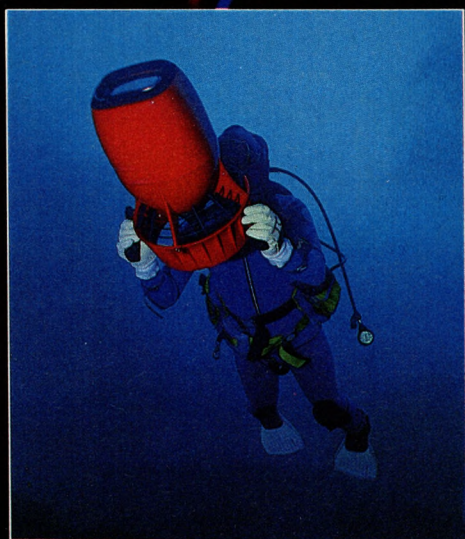
Once you have surfaced, re-check the crabs' measurements.

bing on the slack tide, either high or low. This is when there is the least amount of tidal movement and the crabs come out of hiding to feed. Dungeness crabs seem to have excellent visual perception, so all precautions must be taken to avoid being seen. One method is to establish buoyancy at about 10 feet above the ocean floor. This way you can see them, but hopefully they won't see you until it's too late. It is best to come from behind the crab, rather than from in front. Indentations in the sand indicate the crab's shell front. If you are careful, you can grab quickly before it knows what hit it. Be constantly aware of its claws. Hold the crab from the back or across the center of the carapace. Crabs have excellent reach and have been known to break fingers. Once you have a victim, check for gender, measure to see if it is legal, quickly get it into the

(Continued on Page 46)

Tekna DV-3X

*First Peek At Tekna's
Revolutionary
Diver Vehicle*



BY BONNIE J. CARDONE

What fun! The kelp was horizontal in the current. The force of the water as I moved through it whipped my snorkel against the side of my head. In front of me, two divers kicked furiously, but made little progress. Holding onto the DV-3X, I banked for a right turn, then glided in a huge, effortless circle around the two divers. I buzzed silently down to 90 feet, then soared slowly back up to 30. I had never before been able to see all of Eagle Reef on a single dive but this time it was easy. Spying a likely lobster lair, I glided over to investigate. The powerful light on the vehicle's front illuminated the cave: No one was home.

After 20 minutes I was getting chilled in the 53°F water. I made one more circle of the closest pinnacle and pointed my "magic carpet" toward the surface.

The Tekna DV-3X is the newest diver propulsion vehicle on the market. It's a beautiful little machine, candy apple red with black accents. There's a powerful headlight on the front, along with a stainless steel carrying handle. The charging port is hidden under the handle. The DV is incredibly simple to operate: A finger on your right hand controls the motor switch, one on your left, the headlight. Press the motor trigger and off you go—but hang on with both hands because you won't be going slow! When you want to stop, release the trigger. The switches are non-latching, when you release them the light and the DV stop immediately.

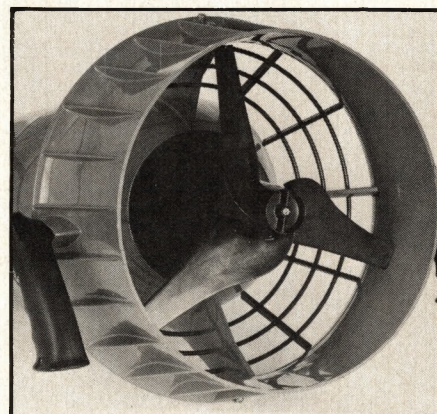
There are actually two DVs available from Tekna. The DV-3X differs from the DV-3 in that it comes with a carrying case, a variable pitch propeller, a prop screen and a fast charger. The case is double walled polyethylene. Both halves are identical, thus there is no top or bottom. Inside, the DV and its charger fit snugly into spaces molded to fit them. On the outside, two red nylon webbing straps with quick release buckles keep the case together. Handles on each end allow it to be carried easily.

The DV reminds one of a chic, sleek racing machine. The shiny red body is ultra high impact Xenoy® resin. The handles, prop, prop screen and protective thermoplastic elastomer bezel around the headlight are black. The body is aerodynamically designed to move through the water with little resistance. And, powered by twin 12 volt, 15 ampere-hour rechargeable batteries, *move* it does! The 3X's variable pitch propeller has nine settings. Tekna says settings from 3 to 5 produce the best combination of comfort, speed, running time and range. I found myself unable to hold onto the vehicle at 7—it was too powerful. All of the settings up to 7 moved me easily through the water. Of course, at 5'2" I'm a relatively small diver. Larger, heavier divers will want to use higher numbered settings.

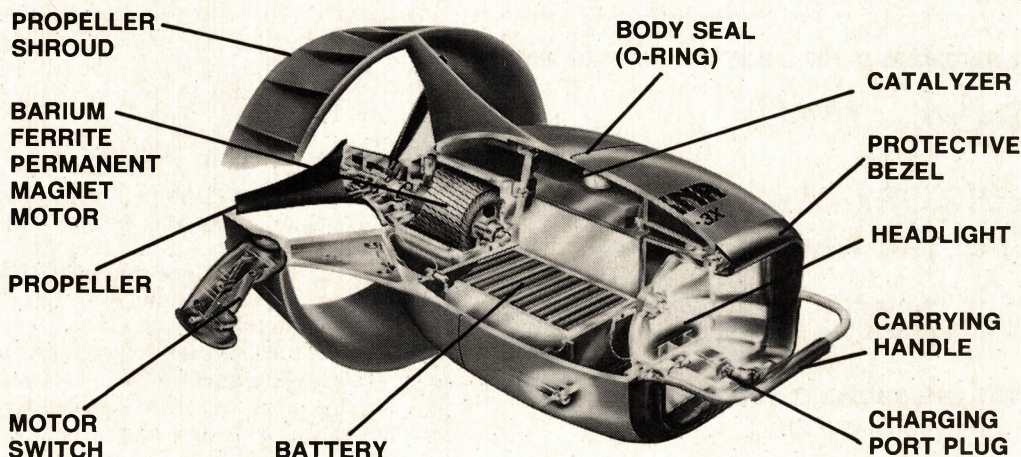
The two questions everyone asks are "How far will the DV go and what is its running time?" That depends upon the size of the diver using it, the current, if any, and the prop setting. Lower settings, calm water and smaller divers use less battery power, thus the DV will go farther, faster. With minimal drag and a low setting Tekna estimates the DV-3X has a range of three miles and a running time of up to 140 minutes. At pitch setting 1 it goes about 1.3 miles per hour; at 5 about 2 mph; and at 9 about 2.5 mph. The headlight has a gas filled bulb that uses little energy. Tekna says the light has almost no effect on running time.

SKIN DIVER took the DV-3X on the *Scuba Queen* for two test dives at Catalina, then on a two day *Charisma* trip to Cortes Bank with the Santa Monica Blue Fins. On the latter, after two photo sessions totaling 35 minutes (and no re-charging), we lent it to Andre Pillons. Looking for lobster, he had the vehicle out for 52 minutes at an average depth of 25 feet. He found it would stay in place when parked on its shroud on the bottom, even in 25 foot surge. He did have two

(Continued on Page 36)



The DV-3X has a variable pitch propeller with nine settings. It comes with a charger that gives a normal or fast charge and can be used with either 110 or 220 volt electricity. The case holds the DV and charger.



Far left: Santa Monica Blue Fin, Tom Shorten, test drives the DV-3X at Cortes Bank. Left: The cutaway shows the components of the DV. It is powered by twin, 12 volt rechargeable batteries. To charge, simply unscrew and remove the charging port plug, under the carrying handle, and insert charging cord.

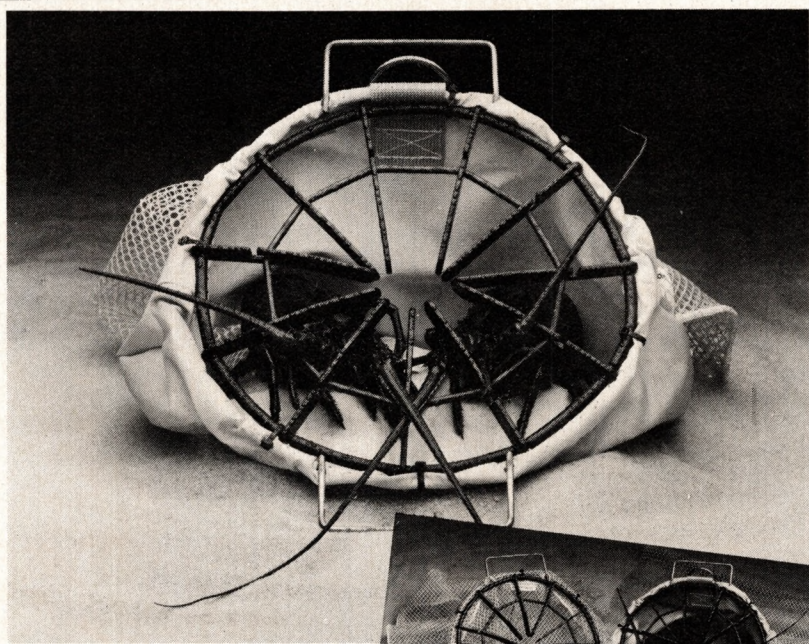
BIG MOUTH GAME TRAPPER

from

Aquacraft II

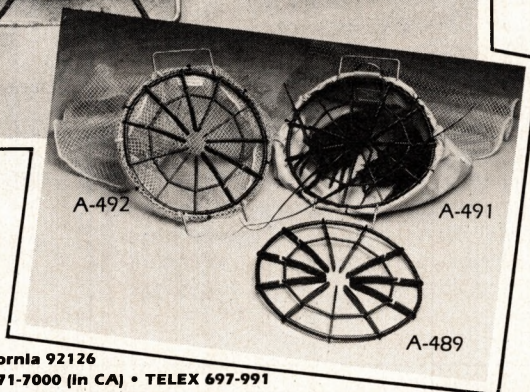
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DIVEMASTERS OF JUPITER

Divemasters of Jupiter, Inc., a full service professional dive store and PADI Training Facility, recently opened at the Blowing Rocks Marina, 18487 U.S. Highway 1, Tequesta, Florida.

The store is run by Captain Stephen Lewis, an oceanographer and PADI openwater instructor who has been in the diving industry 15 years.

Divemasters will offer training from openwater to assistant instructor, along with specialties such as photography, search and recovery, deep diver, night diver, equipment and research.

The dockside dive store carries a full line of scuba gear and accessories and also offers dive charters on a 26 foot boat berthed 200 feet from the store. 

NAUI STAFF

Two recent appointments to the headquarters staff of the National Association of Underwater Instructors are: Dennis Graver, who rejoins NAUI as director of special projects, and Ken Loyst, new West Coast service representative.

Graver was technical director for NAUI from 1972 to 1975. From 1975 to 1982 he worked for PADI as director of training and, later, as educational specialist. In 1983 he became the chief operations officer for the American Sailing Association.

As director of special projects for NAUI, Graver will organize and develop programs to assist instructors in teaching their classes.

Loyst began diving in 1968 and became a NAUI instructor in 1972. From full time training director of a large dive store chain, he moved to managing retail dive stores. He worked as an instructor in the Bahamas and later returned to California to help staff the NAUI Professional Development Center.

Loyst was later publisher of Discovering Diving in Southern California and owns Watersports Publishing. As a NAUI course director since 1975, Loyst has directed 32 ITCs and staffed more than 30 other instructor level courses. He can be reached through NAUI Headquarters or his field office in San Diego at (619) 543-1130. 

NAUI DROPS CMAS

NAUI has resigned its membership in CMAS and severed all official relations with the French-based federation. This was a unanimous decision made by the board of directors during its annual meeting. This action was taken because the CMAS structure is not practical for NAUI.

NAUI will pursue its own international programs, developing and expanding its system in countries around the world. NAUI has affiliates in Canada and Japan, a branch in Australia and chapters in numerous other countries. 

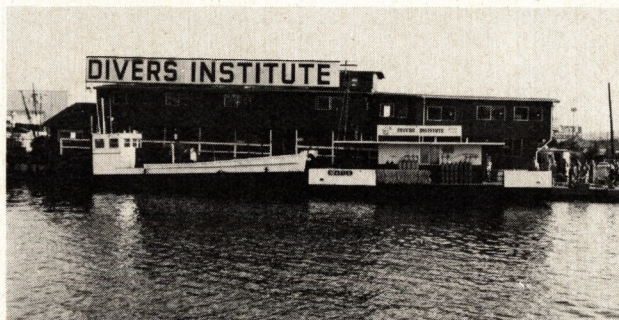
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TEKNA DV-3X

(Continued from Page 33)

complaints: His hands got cold (the water was 55°F) and he used only 650 pounds of the air in his doubles!

Simple to operate, the DV is also simple to charge. Merely unscrew and remove the charging port plug (a quarter works great in the slot). The charger can be used with both 110 and 220 volt currents: There is a switch that accommodates either. Insert the three pronged plug into an electrical outlet, then plug the charging cord into the charging port. Turn the power switch on. If you want a quick charge (2-4 hours) press the fast charge switch. A normal charge will take 8 to 12 hours. The charger automatically turns off when the batteries have been charged, so they cannot overcharge. A current meter tells you what kind of charge the batteries already have: This can help you decide how much longer to use the DV before charging it. The only thing you have to remember to do when charging is completed is to clean and grease the O-ring on the charging port plug, and replace the plug!

Topside, the DV weighs a hefty 48 pounds but in the water it is just three pounds negative. The carrying handle

makes it extremely easy to cart around underwater—it's no more trouble than a large dive light.

Before I used the DV I was a bit concerned about the unenclosed prop: Would dive gear get caught in it? The moment I turned it on, however, that worry disappeared. The prop wash was so strong it "blew" everything out of the way! Tekna says the prop will stop immediately if anything gets caught in it and my observations confirmed this. The position of the diver while using the vehicle is not conducive to gear entanglement either: Your arms are bent 90 degrees at the elbow with your head above and in line with the shroud.

Maintenance of the DV is very simple: Rinse with fresh water and let it dry completely before you store it in its case. Keep the charger in its original plastic bag to prevent corrosion.

A detailed instruction booklet comes with the DV. Before I found out how much it cost, friends and I speculated the 3X probably sold for at least \$1,500. We were surprised to discover the price tag was only \$995. The DV-3 sells for \$795. To be available by the time you read this are an instrument console that mounts on top of the shroud and a Custom Cruise Seat. The console will contain a maximum depth gauge and a compass and retail for \$99.95. The Cruise Seat, a T-bar type arrangement intended to eliminate

arm fatigue, will sell for \$39.95. For more information contact: Tekna, 1075 Old County Road, Belmont, CA 94002. ☎

SPECIFICATIONS

	DV-3	DV-3X
LENGTH	21.2'	21.2'
WEIGHT	48 lbs.	48 lbs.
SPEED	2.1 mph*	1.3-2.5 mph*
RUNNING TIME	75 min.	20-140 min.
CHARGING TIME	8-12 hrs.	2-4 hrs. or 8-12 hrs.

STATIC THRUST 40 lbs.

ACCESSORIES:

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Prop Kit	Optional	Standard
Prop Screen	Optional	Standard
Carrying Case	Optional	Standard

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BATTERIES.....Two 12 v, 15 a-h, sealed, rechargeable
RANGE.....Approximately three miles
MAX. DEPTH.....130 feet
MOTOR.....Barium ferrite, permanent magnet, direct drive, 600 rpm
BODY.....Ultra high-impact, Xenoy® resin

*Based on average diver

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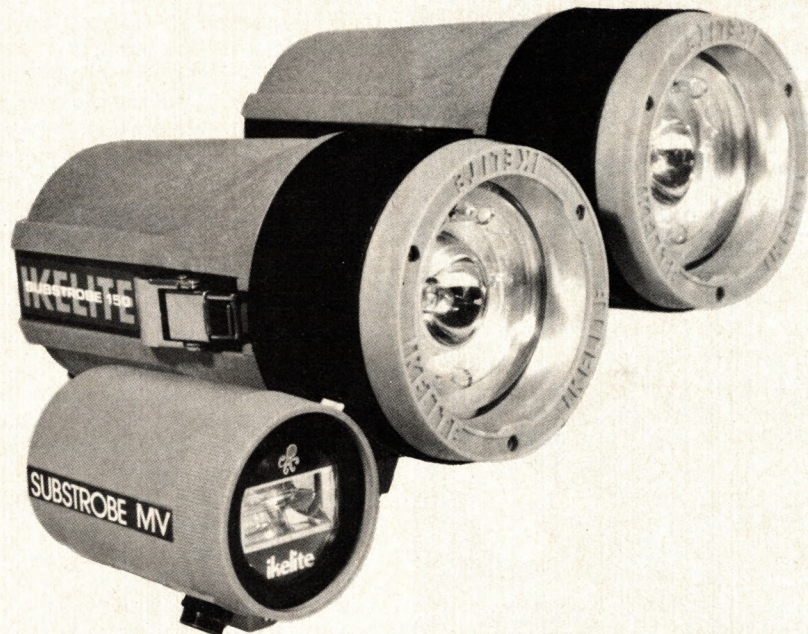
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with TTL



TTL AUTOMATION

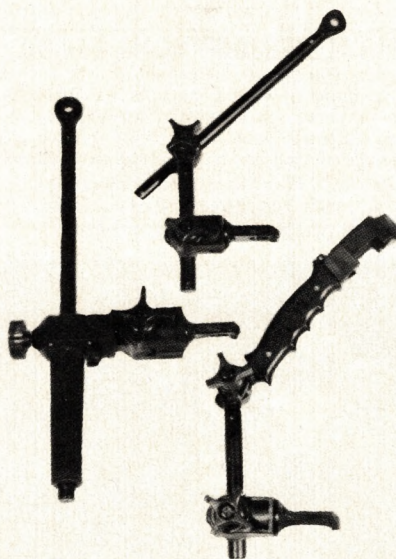
IKELITE SUBSTROBES offer automatic Through-The-Lens (TTL) flash exposure control when used with the Nikonos V camera. The TTL system automatically compensates for distance, f-stop, extension tubes and filters. SUBSTROBES offer additional features such as multi-power settings, fast recycle, high intensity output, slave mode, built-in modeling light and ultra-wide coverage. With the addition of TTL automation, no other underwater strobe system offers the features and dependability of an IKELITE SUBSTROBE.



NON-TTL AUTOMATION

With the optional Flash Monitor, a remote auto sensor, all SUBSTROBES offer Non-TTL auto exposure control with any underwater camera system. The Monitor will automatically produce

accurate exposures over a wide range of strobe-to-subject distances.

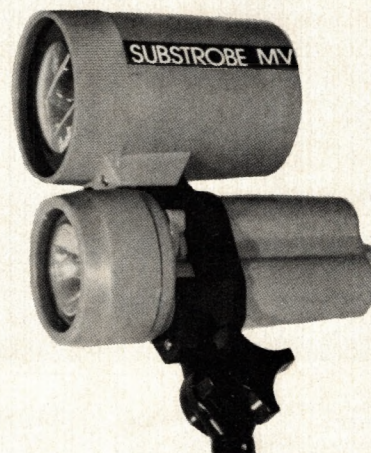


ARMS

The Quick Handle is especially suited for the larger SUBSTROBES. It features an 18 inch adjustable arm and quick release for easy hand holding. The Strobe Arm and Strobe Handle are more suited for the smaller SUBSTROBES. They are available in single and double section models for added versatility and both accept the Lite Bracket.

LITE BRACKET

The Lite Bracket permits the Ikelite Mini C-Lite to be used as an aiming/modeling light with the M series SUBSTROBES. This combination is ideal for night photography.



OPTIONS

The SUBSTROBES have a detachable sync cord allowing easy removal for packing, interchanging of cords and addition of the Flash Monitor. Sync cords are available with Ikelite, Nikonos, Nelson and E/O connectors. Standard chargers, Quick chargers and additional battery packs are also available for some models.

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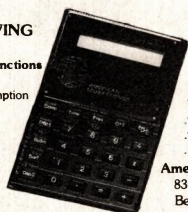
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ANCIENT CADIZ WRECKS

Thousands of ships sunk over the centuries in the Bay of Cadiz (Spain) are currently in danger of being destroyed by dredging and landfill operations associated with the expansion of this port.

Political and jurisdictional conflicts between Spain's federal government and the provincial government of Andalucia have so far frustrated efforts to protect the wrecks, which are exceptionally well preserved owing to their being covered with anoxic mud.

Although several groups are planning or involved in studies of various wrecks in the area, archaeologists would like to see a more comprehensive program of research undertaken. Robert Marx, a well known, independent nautical archaeologist said, "It is now estimated that 50 percent of the sites containing old shipwrecks in the Cadiz area have been obliterated by the dredges."

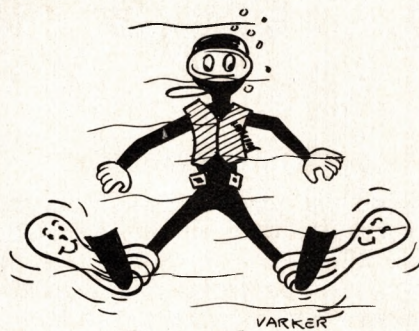
At the annual meeting of the Society of Historical Archeology, in Boston, the Advisory Council of Underwater Archeology adopted a resolution calling the shipwrecks at Cadiz "important to the cultural heritage...of the whole world." The resolution, to be presented to King Juan Carlos of Spain, noted that the preservation of hulls of ships "from every historic period" makes the site "virtually unique in the world."

HANDICAPPED SCUBA VIDEO

The Handicapped Scuba Association is marketing a video entitled *Freedom in Depth* that emphasizes the abilities of handicapped divers. The video is useful for training, education or entertainment.

The Handicapped Scuba Association has been teaching scuba diving to handicapped persons since 1975. It has devised a multi-level program so sensitive and complete it allows the certification of people with many different types of disabilities, even the blind.

Freedom in Depth costs \$50. Contact the Handicapped Scuba Association, 1104 El Prado, San Clemente, CA 92672.



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The DDL 1000's watch function displays time of day, day of week and date, with alarm, stop watch, and back-light features.

Underwater, touch the mode button to read the time of day. The time display will remain for 5 seconds before changing back to display your current bottom time. The stop watch can be used underwater while the DDL 1000 continues to record bottom time.

The DDL 1000 is factory sealed incorporating a 2 year lithium battery and is water resistant to 330' (100m).

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- Long-life battery

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CASIO DW-2000C SOLAR DIVERS' CHRONO

FEATURING —

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- 7-year solar battery
- Dual time, 12/24 hour time
- 1/100 second stopwatch with repeat every hour
- Split/lap time/time out
- 12-digit LCD display simultaneous with alarm, chronograph, timer or calendar
- Countdown timer and 5 independent alarms
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- Night light

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FUJICHROME 400

(Continued from Page 29)

able depth of field.

When using Fujichrome 400 for medium and long distance sunlight exposures with strobe fill, set manually controlled strobes to low power.

Although the slower, finer grained Fujichrome 50 is better for close-ups, you could take close-ups with Fujichrome 400. If so, set your strobe for its lowest power setting to avoid overexposure. When taking close-ups with automatic strobes, Fuji warns that "... extremely short duration flashes may materially affect the color balance of the finished photographs owing to reciprocity problems." However, you won't have reciprocity failure (changes in exposure and color balance) with flash durations as fast as 1/4000 second or shutter speeds as slow as one second.

TESTING FUJICHROME 400

We took our first test exposures in Hawaii. The water was clear and bright and Jim was using strobe fill with his Nikons V at 1/90 second. Given these ideal conditions, we didn't need a film this fast, but we wanted to see what Fujichrome 400 would do in clear water. Several scenes had an exposure range of several stops from the darker to the lighter areas and we wanted to see if the highlights would overexpose when we metered for the middle tones.

The resulting slides handled the exposure range quite well and didn't have any overexposed areas. Cathy's yellow and

FUJI 400 EXPOSURES NIKON SPEEDLIGHT SB-103 Manual Exposure

Distance	M 1/16	M 1/4	M Full
1 foot	f11 (8)	f22 (16)	—
2 feet	f8 (5.6)	f11 (8)	f22 (16)
3 feet	f5.6 (4)	f8 (5.6)	f16 (11)
4 feet	f4 (2.8)	f5.6 (4)	f11 (8)
6 feet	f2.8 (2)	f4 (2.8)	f8 (5.6)

- Strobe to subject distance in apparent feet.
- F stops derived by dividing SB-103 air guide numbers by three before dividing by distance.
- Use f stops shown in brackets when the optional wide angle diffuser is used.

blue wetsuit and the twin Nikon strobes she was posing with were all bright and colorful, her skin tones were pleasingly warm and the blue water backgrounds were a rich blue. When viewed under a 5x loupe, the slides weren't as crisp or fine grained as slides we've taken with Fujichrome 100. But when projected,

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Second, it's not anything to do with buddy breathing. Let's be honest. How easy would it be to take your air supply out of your mouth at 120 feet and give it to panic-stricken, adrenaline-crazed "buddy"? Or what if you lose contact for just a moment... and that is *the* moment you find yourself out of air?

But do we need to suffer so much because of one malfunction?

Imagine being caught suddenly out of air. A free ascent? You may have practiced it, but try going up 60 feet without first taking a long, sweet gulp of air before you start. If you actually do run out of air, you may discover it after you have exhaled.



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they were quite pleasing. So far, so good.

(Note: Most of our slides were exposed at f22, at the extreme upper end of the aperture scale. While f22 produces excellent depth of field, f11 and 16 are actually sharper at the exact focused distance of the lens.)

We braved the colder, darker waters of Monterey Bay for our second test. To show how Fujichrome 400 could stop fast action, we wanted to try some upward shots of the seals at the Monterey Bay breakwater. The seals, however, were out to lunch so we headed for a kelp-topped pinnacle. Visibility was the pits in the kelp, so we dropped down to the white metridium anemones at about 55 feet. We moved the anchor, hoping the boat would show up in the background of some of our pictures. We were continually pitched back and forth by the deep ground swells, so Jim would pan with Cathy as she tumbled by.

An exposure meter reading into the tiny ball of the overhead sun was f11 for ISO 400. Had we been using slower Fujichromes, the reading would have been f4 for ISO 50 and f5.6 for ISO 100. Even with ISO 400, level camera angles required about f4. We wanted to open the aperture for the sunlight exposure and have enough depth of field to cover important subject areas. To minimize the amount of strobe light—which would strike suspended particles and produce white spots in the pictures—Jim used a Subsea Mark 100 set for 50 ws (half power) and placed the overhead sun behind Cathy to outline her. Cathy again posed with the twin strobes so we could see something with the same color and reflectance in both clear Hawaii and dirty California waters.

As expected, Fujichrome 400 gave us exactly what we wanted—sunlight exposures with just a touch of strobe light, adequate depth of field and minimum backscatter. The slides were excellent when we projected them.

PROCESSING

Fujichrome 400 was designed for Fuji Film Process CR-56, but it can also be processed in standard or Hobby-Pac E-6 chemicals. Thus, Fujichrome 400 can be processed at any dive destination that offers on-site color slide processing. If higher film speeds are required, you can expose and push process Fujichrome 400 for ISO 800 or 1600, but (as with other films) for the best color balance, contrast and density, Fuji recommends exposing and processing for ISO 400.

For more information about Fujichrome 400 and other consumer and professional films, write directly to: Fuji Photo Film, Ltd., 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10001.

☆ **DISCOVER BELIZE** ☆
in the June issue



BEUCHAT

When you're diving for fun ...or for dinner

You probably know that most of today's diving innovations were developed in France. What you may not know is that the best-selling line of equipment in France itself is made by Beuchat (pronounced Bo-shah). The firm was begun by Georges Beuchat to market two of his own now-famous discoveries—vented fins and the wet suit.

Shown above are Beuchat's exclusive *Goldfins*: 34 inches of pure power for both recreational diving and serious spearfishing. They're fun to swim with, *but when you need to get deep in a hurry*, a few kicks let you catch up with your target. No other fin can perform as well.

Goldfins are just a part of Beuchat's complete line of advanced equipment for spearfishing. There are masks, knives, spearguns, wetsuits, and our exclusive *Contact* fins, and all are available at better dive shops.

(Above:
Beuchat's
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the choice of
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U-BOAT VICTIM

Delight To Florida Panhandle Divers

BY KARL W. SHREEVES

Spring 1984: Rapidly I pull through green-tint swells down the anchor line against the current. The surface is murky with algae, but as I descend clarity increases and current decreases. As the 55 foot mark passes the deck appears 20 feet below, its length fading in both directions at the extreme edges of visibility.

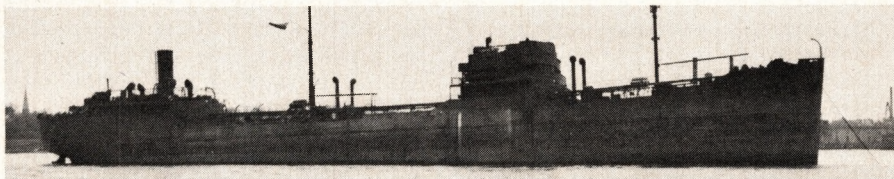
My diving partner and I leave the line and drop onto the deck—a steel plateau towering over the 110 foot sand bottom. Starting along the top deck we pass oil tank access hatches, some sealed shut by a 40 year thick encrustation, some open with endless ladders leading down to infinite darkness.

Along the port side we swim, but here the ship is sideless. Only a torn chasm of twisted steel expands before us—a canyon of pretzeled iron receding into a cavern of girder pillars. Like birds we fly across the ravine and gaze into the vault; eerie light-streams ghost through open hatches and holes, beckoning yet dissuading entry into the metal maze.

We've just arrived, it seems, but our

watches and pressure gauges don't agree with us. As we rise along the anchor line, I survey the ship in clouds of fish and green glow below. I wonder what killed the *Empire Mica*.

June 28, 1942, about 10:00 pm: Dark, calm sea slaps abeam the *Empire Mica* steaming ten miles off the Florida panhandle toward Key West. The 463 foot tanker has been at sea since April 24, on



photo/courtesy Peabody Museum of Salem

her second trip since she was launched at Haverton Hill-on-Tees, England, about a year before.

Peering into the night, ship's master Hugh Bradford Bently keeps close watch on the sea. When the Ministry of War Transportation had ordered the construction of the *Mica* in 1940, German U-boats were sinking half the shipping put to sea—a rate faster than ships could be built. Since then, success declined for the Germans around Britain, but off America it's a duck shoot: Americans don't know how to fight U-boats. The 8,032 ton tanker makes way for England unprotected, unescorted and over-burdened with bad-

ly needed refined petroleum.

"Commander to bridge!" Responding, Kapitanleutenant Günther Müller-Stöckheim joins the watch atop the *U-67*'s conning tower. The watch officer points at the twilight horizon and hands him binoculars. Müller-Stöckheim squints into the fading light; twin hairlines jut up where the sky rests on the sea: masts—an unescorted merchant ship.

Since June 16, the *U-67* has sunk four ships on America's gulf doorstep. Hunting is easy, especially for a longer range type IX U-boat. The American ships are unescorted and lit up like Christmas trees. Müller-Stöckheim shrugs. He will shortly be 8,000 tons closer to his Knight's Cross. Conferring with the watch officer and navigator, he plots an intercept course. "Full ahead, both diesels," he orders.

"Jawohl, Herr Kaleu!" The *U-67* surges at 17 knots through the swell.

June 29, 1:38 am: Through the attack periscope, the huge tanker is a black silhouette against the night sky. Müller-

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Stöckheim whispers torpedo bearings and presses his eyes back to the periscope. "Los!" he commands, and the first torpedo is away. "Los!" he repeats and a second speeds toward the target.

Off the port beam something catches Bentley's eye. He scans back to find it—there! The thin stalk of a periscope protrudes from the sluggish sea. Port amidship the *Empire Mica* rocks as the first torpedo impacts.

"Full ahead!" orders Bentley, hoping to outrun the German predator. *Mica's* triple expansion steam engines respond, but port-stern erupts in flame as the U-boat's second lance makes its mark.

Overladen holding tanks boil and burst as flames find them; the dying *Empire Mica's* rear roars into a technicolor fireball. The steam engines keep churning the flaming tanker on at 11 knots; lifeboats cannot be lowered at that speed. Blazing oil bubbles through and across decks, devouring crew and waiting lifeboats, but still the *Mica* steams on.

At his post in the engine room, now a blazing hell, third engineer Joseph Steele scrambles, disengaging engines so the crew can escape. As the *Mica* slows, a wall of fire surges into the engine compartment. Steele does not emerge.

Racing against the rushing inferno, lifeboats are lowered on lines like hurried spiders escaping from a candle. Two are too slow. From his lifeboat, Bentley's

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U-BOAT VICTIM

eyes fill with horror as he watches his men die in the two boats swallowed by the assailing blaze.

Less than 20 minutes after U-67's assault, the *Empire Mica* is an abandoned pyre. Drifting, she burns nine hours and sinks in 110 feet of water, a submerged sepulcher for all but 14 of a 47 man crew.

For his successes, Müller-Stöckheim is awarded the Knight's Cross, but the next year an Allied airplane sends the U-67 into her final dive. *Mica* is avenged.

The *Empire Mica* rests on her keel about 10 miles from the Florida coast—three hours on most charters from the Port Saint Joe area; five or six hours out of Panama City for all but the speediest dive cruisers. She is a popular dive, offering interest for intermediate and advanced divers.

Fish cloud the wreck. Large amberjack, grouper and other game fish make the *Mica* popular to spearfishermen. And, swarms of baitfish and even some tropical varieties adorn the dramatic ruptured bulkheads and warped walls, to the photographer's delight.

Relic hunters go to the deeper water of the engine room's bottom, under the shadow of the *Mica*'s massive boilers and the expansion cylinders Joseph Steele gave his life silencing. You can

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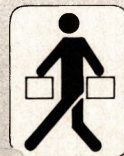
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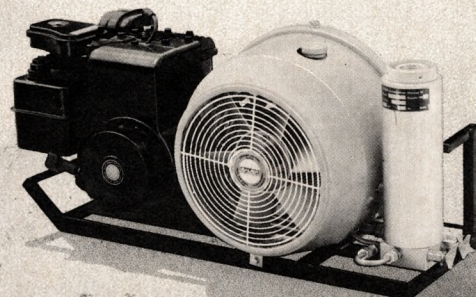
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spend an entire dive sifting through sand and silt for artifacts in a small area.

Dives along the deck seldom exceed 80 feet; here the diver encounters the remains of the *Mica's* pumping equipment, a winch and a spare propeller. One of the *Mica's* trademark features, the enormous



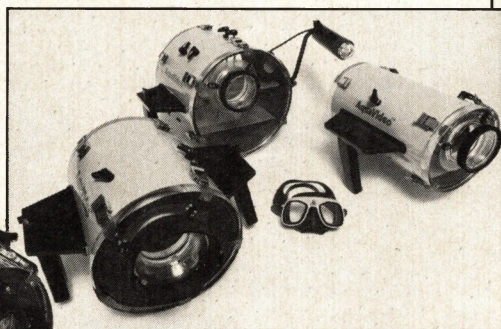
photo /Karl Shreeves

spare prop, was carried in case of damage to her main twin screws during a war when brass and spare parts were uncommon. Although the spare lies where it was lashed years ago, one of the tanker's huge twin props is gone, reduced to a garden ornament for a Panama City seafood restaurant.

An iron reef rising off a sandy sea-bottom desert, the *Empire Mica* is a worthwhile trip for almost any diver. She is an oasis for sea life and perhaps, an admonition to men and war.

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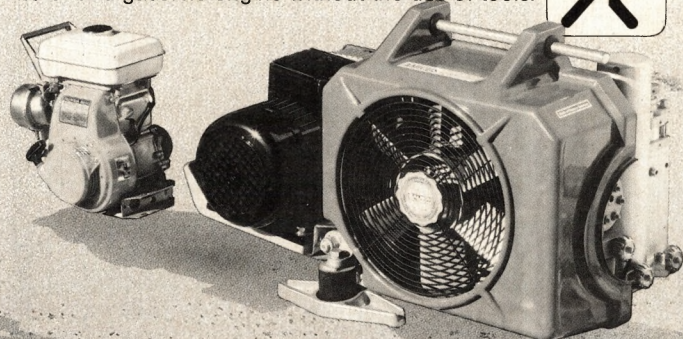
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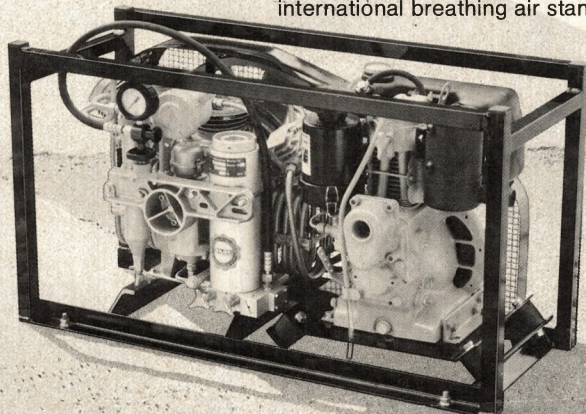
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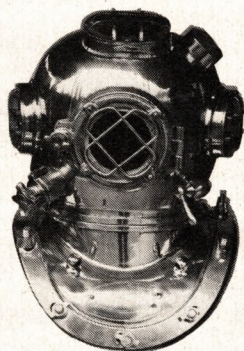


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DUNGENESS CRAB

(Continued from Page 31)

bag and start your search again.

It seems that beginning crab hunters have a bit of trouble determining a legal sized crab from a distance. We can remember coming upon one poor victim scurrying across the bottom. It had several scratches on his shell, indicating several divers had measured him and found him a trifle short.

CRAB MEAT DELIGHT

- 2 tbsp. chopped green pepper
- 2 tbsp. minced onion
- 3 tbsp. butter or margarine
- 2 tbsp. flour
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1/2 cup shredded cheese
- 1/4 cup condensed tomato soup or catsup
- 2 cups crab meat, chunked
- Hot steamed rice

Drain and flake crab meat. Saute green pepper and onion until tender but not browned. Stir in flour, Worcestershire sauce and milk and continue to stir (this guarantees no lumps). Now add the cheese and soup, stirring again until the cheese melts. Serve immediately over the steaming hot rice. Yields 4 to 6 servings.

CRAB FRITTERS

- 1/2 cup crab meat, 1 cup biscuit mix
- 1/2 cup milk, 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. instant minced onion
- Dash hot pepper sauce

Mix biscuit mix, milk, eggs and seasoning and add onion and crab meat. Pour peanut oil or cooking oil into deep fry pan and heat to 375°F. Spoon mixture into hot oil and fry until brown. Drain and serve. Yields 2 servings.

CRAB MEAT SALAD

- 2 cups cooked crabmeat, flaked
- 4 eggs hard boiled, diced
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp. onion, minced
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 3 tbsp. tarragon vinegar
- 1/8 tsp. garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup celery, diced
- 6 cherry tomatoes
- Lettuce

Mix the spices and the liquids with the mayonnaise and chill sauce. Lightly mix the crabmeat with the egg and diced vegetables and carefully blend with the rest of the ingredients. Serve on lettuce and garnish with the tomatoes. Yields 6 servings.

DUNGENESS CRAB REGULATIONS

California—6 1/4 inches minimum size; limit of 10; either sex; fishing license required; Del Norte/Humboldt/Mendocino Counties open Dec. 1 through July 30. All others second Tuesday in Nov. through June 30. No taking in S.F. Bay and backwaters, San Pablo Bay or Golden Gate to Carquinez.

Oregon—5 3/4 inches minimum size; limit of 12; only males can be collected; no license required; Pacific Ocean closed from Sept. 16 to Nov. 30. Bays, beaches and tidepools open all year.

Washington—6 inches minimum size; limit of 6; only males can be collected; no license required; season open all year. Unlawful to take soft-shelled.

All undersized crabs or restricted females must be returned quickly to the water unharmed. Be sure to check local fish and game requirements.

Once you have surfaced, re-check the crabs' measurements.

In late spring, male and female crabs can be found in shallow water in mating pairs. While the act of mating takes a half hour or less, the male will often carry the female clasped to his underside for a month or more waiting for her to molt, since this is the only time when mating can take place successfully. The male is in prime condition at this time.

As crabs mature they often segregate themselves according to size and sex. If you find nothing but females, look for males at a different depth.

Size limits and other regulations for crabs vary from state to state and you must check the laws before diving. Included here is a brief chart of the regulations on the West Coast.

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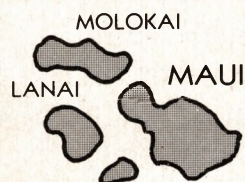
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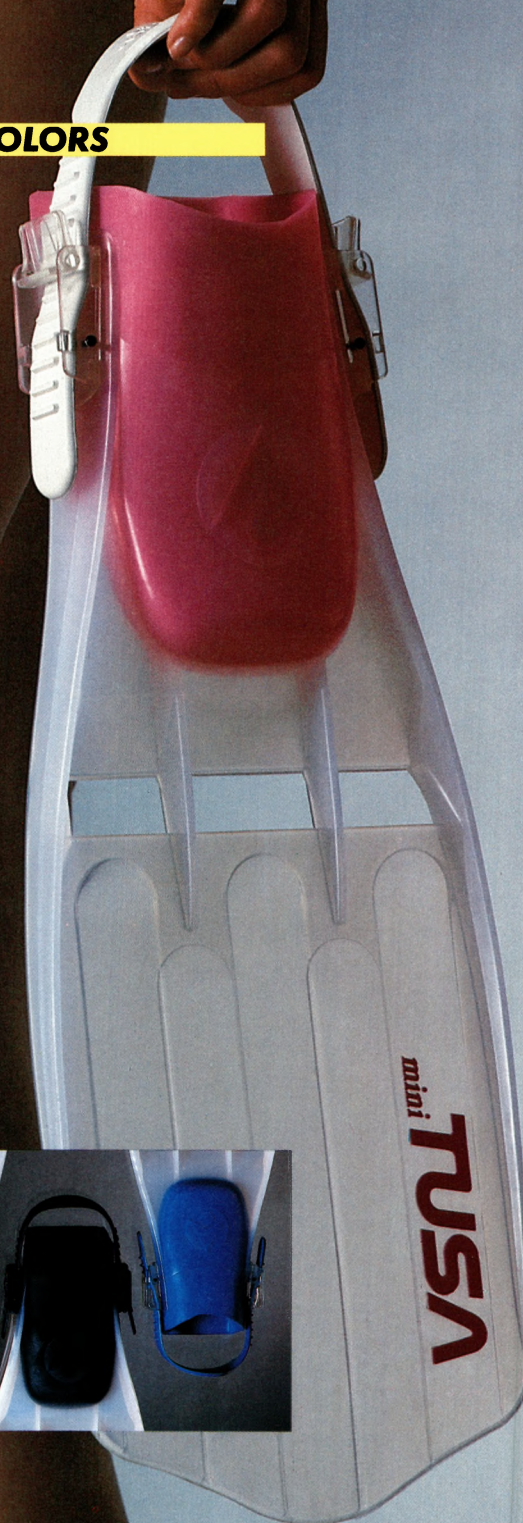
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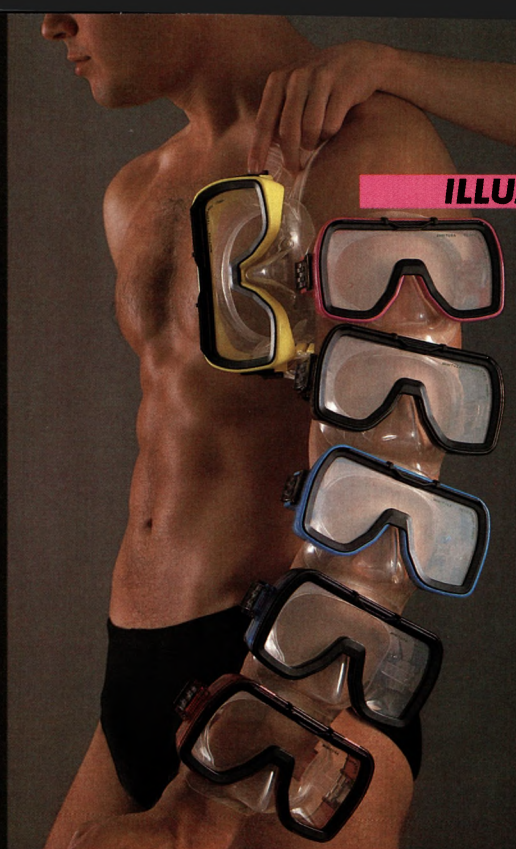




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Each jacket has padded shoulders for comfort, plus accessory hose holders and utility rings. (The medium size jacket is also available in a standard model with the same features, except for Velcro waist cummerbund and automatic inflation.)

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SNORKELS

Tabata snorkels are designed to match the style and colors of Tabata masks. Their features include swivel mouthpieces made from clear silicone, and purge valves for expelling water with less effort. Plus a choice of small or large bore tubes.

GLOVES

Tabata gloves are made from a heavy duty coated material, with a long-lasting double palm. They feature an adjustable Velcro wrist, plus a flexible and vented back. Yellow, red, navy blue and light blue models all feature a yellow palm for high visibility. An all-pink model is also available.

KNIVES

The Tabata Diver's Knife has a 5.3" stainless steel blade, mirror polished and specially designed with a line cutter and serrated edge for utility use. The knife features a stainless steel butt and a custom fitted grip, plus a fitted sheath and leg strap.



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Diving News From Down Under

REEF SEEKER Renamed WATER SPORT

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

The well known Australian live-aboard dive boat, the *Reef Seeker*, has recently been sold and renamed the *Water Sport*. The giant, 63 foot, steel catamaran has been purchased by Mike Ball, owner and operator of one of Queensland's largest and most progressive scuba training facilities.

Both the training facility and live-aboard dive boat are in Townsville, a Queensland seaport and major departure point for diving the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea.

The *Water Sport* is a unique live-aboard vessel, often described as a floating hotel for divers. Its squarish superstructure gives it the look of a hotel-at-sea, complete with spacious living accommodations and diving facilities.

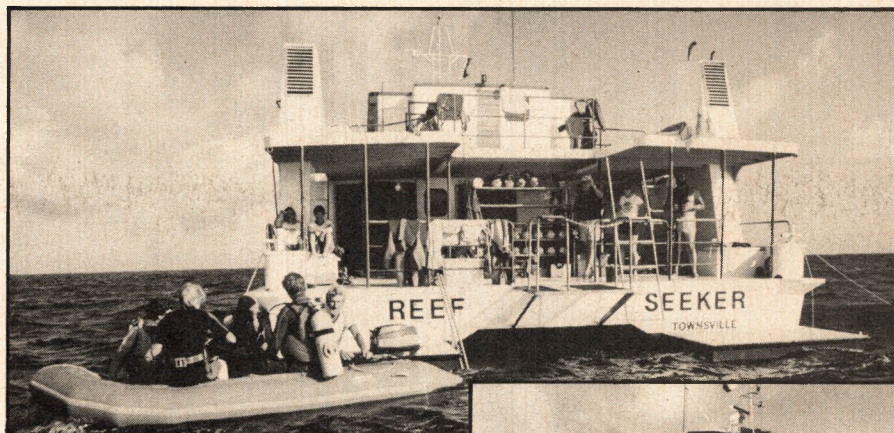
The craft is 63 feet long with an unusually wide 34 foot beam. It is an extremely stable ship because of its twin hulls. And, despite its massive size, the vessel has a draft of only four feet, allowing it to cruise in the shallows of the Great Barrier Reef.

The *Water Sport* is operated by a crew of six and can accommodate up to 26 passengers. Facilities include a galley, large dining room, hot water showers, heads, laundry and a variety of different sized cabins and staterooms.

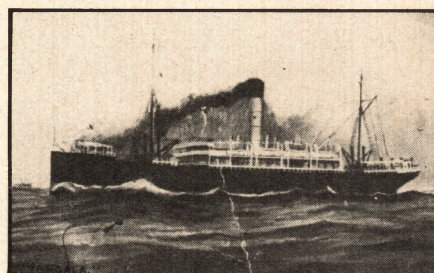
Diving facilities aboard the *Water Sport* include two air compressors, an air storage bank, equipment lockers, freshwater dip tanks, two outboard powered inflatables, a strobe/dive light charging station, an E-6 color film lab and two large stern dive platforms.

The *Water Sport* is powered by twin Caterpillar V-8 diesels and can cruise at nine knots. The vessel is all steel and was built under Queensland ship building survey. It was originally launched in December 1981 and has spent the last three and one-half years carrying divers to most of the well known dive sites along the Great Barrier Reef and in the Coral Sea.

The *Water Sport's* transfer of ownership and re-christening could not be more appropriate. The new owner, Mike Ball, is one of Australia's most successful diving entrepreneurs. He is the owner and operator of Mike Ball Watersports Diving Academy at 252-256 Walker St., Townsville, Queensland, 4810, Australia. This is an ultramodern \$350,000 scuba



The 63 foot catamaran, *Water Sport* (originally the *Reef Seeker*), will make several 1985 trips to the site of the *Yongala* wreck in the Great Barrier Reef. Right: The S.S. *Yongala* vanished during a cyclone in 1911 and remained lost for almost 50 years.

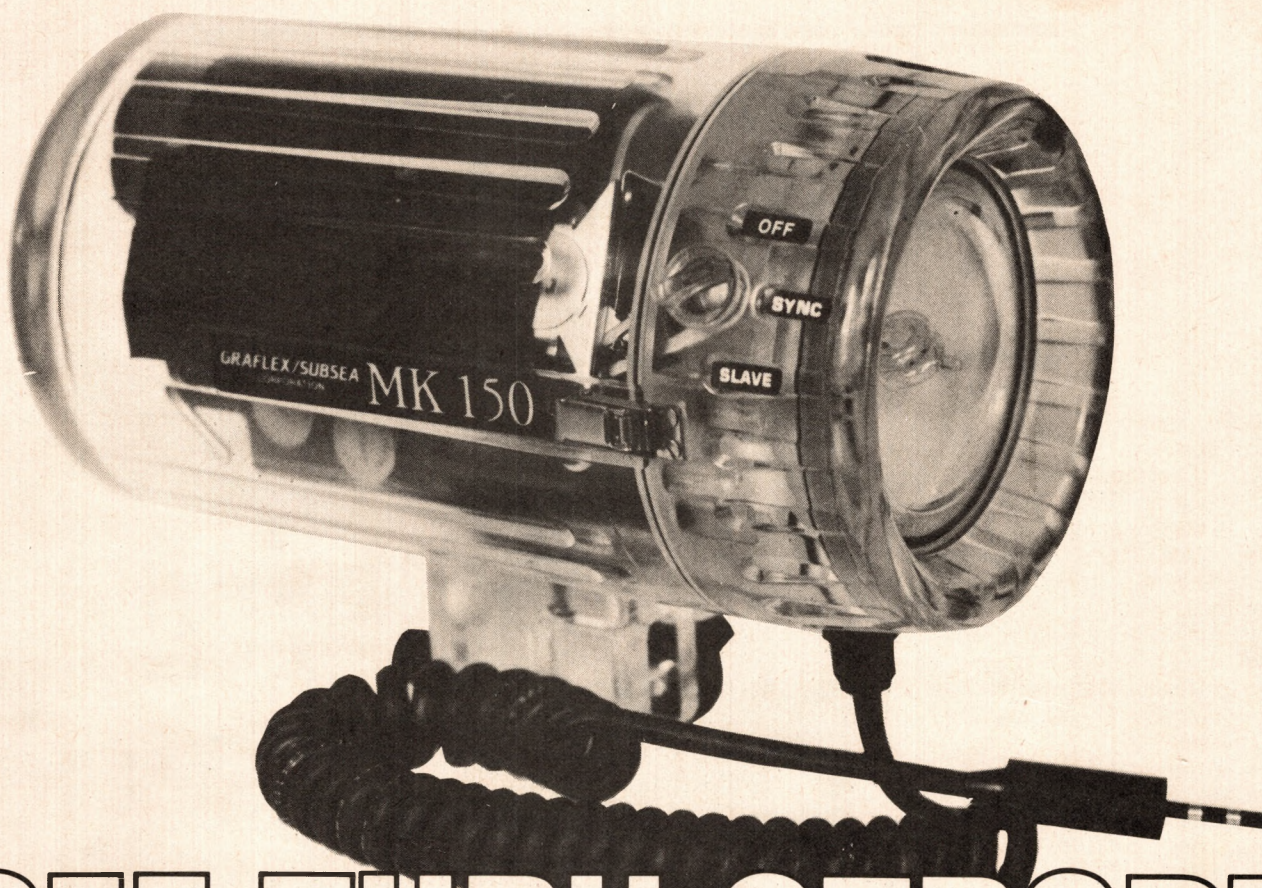


training facility, complete with a second story Olympic sized swimming pool and a vertical diving tower. The facility also houses an attractive retail dive store, complete regulator repair room and a classroom. The Ball operation is an international PADI training facility.

One of the first things Ball did with the *Water Sport* was to schedule a series of 1985 guaranteed departures for special wreck diving trips to the *Yongala*, Australia's most magnificent shipwreck. A 350 foot steel cargo/passenger steamship, the S.S. *Yongala* vanished during a cyclone on March 24, 1911. The ship remained lost for almost 50 years and was discovered only recently by divers.

The *Yongala* is some 50 miles south-east of Townsville. She lies completely intact in 80 feet of water. Because of her remote location, the ship has become a mecca for Great Barrier Reef marine life and great schools of fish swarm over its decks constantly. Several 500 pound, Queensland groupers are permanent residents and a school of 60 pound yellow-tail jacks circle the ship continuously. The *Yongala* is regarded as one of the diving wonders of the Great Barrier Reef.

For more information about booking dates and prices for the *Water Sport*, contact Dive In Australia, 680 Beach St., Suite 340, San Francisco, CA 94109; telephone (415) 928-4480.



SEE-THRU STROBE

The "professional's choice!" That's what the ads say for Graflex/Subsea's Mark 150. In many ways the slogan may be totally factual. Of all the underwater strobe units I have ever used, this one seems to deliver the finest colors, softest, most even and most natural light.

That is saying a lot since the market has several extremely high quality flash units from which to pick. But Subsea has been at, or near, the top of the list since submersible strobes were invented. There are numerous reasons for its popularity. The newly released clear, super-wide angle Mark 150 has now improved upon the high quality flash characteristics that some thought were near perfect.

The principal improvement of the 150 seems at first glance to be only cosmetic. Instead of the normal brown-black housing, the unit is totally clear: All the electronics can be seen through the exterior wall. The obvious advantage is the ability to detect leakage long before it can become a problem. Subsea's unique step O-ring lip creates a totally captive seal

when the upper and lower housing parts are pressed and locked together. Even though it is unlikely to flood when properly assembled, the unlikely does sometimes happen. With the clear 150 even tiny water droplets can be seen quickly. Adequate space is allowed between the interior walls and the electronics to make it possible to retreat to the surface while keeping water away from critical parts.

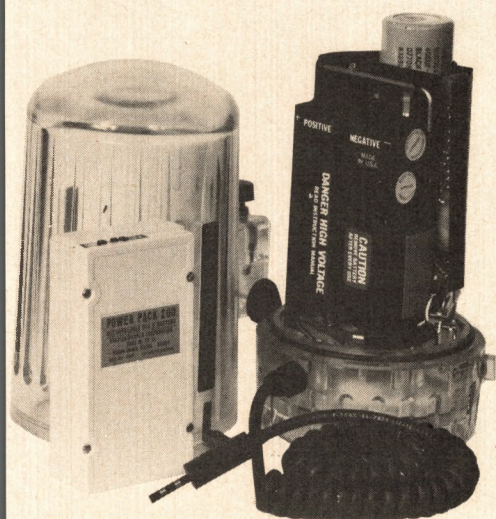
The Mark 150 is a wide angle strobe (any flash that can adequately cover the 94 degree angle of a Nikonos 15 mm lens in the water is considered wide angle). Subsea has advertised its unit as being able to spread light over 150 degrees, which is almost fisheye coverage. The accepted standard for beam angle is the point where the intensity of light drops by one full f stop from center to edge. Our test (see chart) showed the intensity of the new clear 150 dropping by only one-

sixth f stop from the center to the edge of a 15 mm lens. This is extremely even illumination without hot spots. At the advertised 150 degree angle, the loss was more than standard, almost one and two-thirds stops. We found the angle, where one full stop loss occurs, to be approximately 120 to 130 degrees (60 to 65 degrees off axis)—still very impressive.

The clear 150 really shines in its ability to cover fisheye lenses (170 to 180 degree angle of view) from corner to corner. No other strobe I have tested will throw light sideways! This super wide Mark 150 does the trick with only a two stop loss at the extreme edges. The result is that a photographer with a single strobe can light the widest of wide angle lenses. We took a reading three feet directly behind the unit (360 degree coverage) and got an ISO 100 reading of f 2.8!

The clear Mark 150's super wide coverage is made possible by two exclusively Subsea innovations. First, the strobe uses a saucer-shaped beaded glass reflector instead of aluminum behind the flash tube. The effect is very similar to

The super wide angle Mark 150 is now available in a clear housing which allows the photographer to detect leaks before they can become a problem. The strobe is powered by either a 510 volt dry cell or the rechargeable Power Pack 200.



SUBSEA CLEAR MARK 150 EXPOSURE TEST (Full Power)

This test was done in the water, then repeated in air with the results of each test compared and rechecked when discrepancies were found. We used a digital Minolta Auto Meter IIIIF to determine f stops in one-third stop increments. In the pool our exposures were tested at ISO 100. The in air test was done using standard procedures: The meter was set at ISO 32, one-third the ISO 100 used in the water, to allow for the effects of light absorption. Three flashes at each distance, fired at 30 second intervals, were averaged to arrive at the final exposure. This procedure was used since shallow, light colored pools, even in total darkness, may give readings higher than can be achieved in open water. F stops calibrated in actual feet are of little value. Therefore, all distances were tested in apparent feet—the same way a photographer would judge them. For test accuracy we used a rod with apparent feet measured every 16 inches.

EXPOSURE TEST/ASA 100

Distance (apparent feet)	Directly in front of dome	45° off axis—90° angle of coverage	75° off axis—150° angle of coverage	90° off axis—180° angle of coverage
1	f 22	f 16 2/3	f 11 1/2	f 8
2	f 11 1/2	f 11 1/3	f 5.6 2/3	f 4 1/2
3	f 8 1/2	f 8 1/3	f 4 2/3	f 4
4	f 5.6 2/3	f 5.6 1/2	f 4	f 2.8 1/2

Graflex/Subsea Produces A New Version Of The Mark 150 With A Rechargeable Power Pack And Clear Housing

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE LUCAS

portrait studio strobes bounced into umbrellas; very soft, very even. The 5,500K tube is curled in a pigtail which adds to the even distribution of light. Secondly, the clear housing does not restrict or redirect the light. It penetrates the plastic in all directions. The combination makes for very flattering shots of people with more natural colors and shadows.

The super wide angle features are also important to photographers who do not use ultra-wide lenses. If you have ever found dark corners in your photos from mis-aiming your flash, the Mark 150 will help solve the problem. Since it can cover 15 mm and fisheye lenses, it can easily cover 35 mm, 28 or macro lenses almost without regard to where you aim it.

The Mark 150 has features that make it very desirable for traveling photographers. Should an electronic malfunction occur or a connector cord become shorted, replacements can be made in the field with simple household tools. The complete circuit board unplugs and a spare can be inserted in minutes. The ability to make repairs yourself often eliminates the need to own a backup strobe.

The Mark 150 is powered by either a

high voltage dry cell battery or the optional rechargeable Power Pack 200. Each has advantages. Many professionals prefer the 510 volt throw-away battery. Once on location it is not necessary to open the strobe for up to a week. (It is advisable to unseal the unit periodically to allow accumulated gasses to escape. Batteries should never be kept in the unit for extended periods of time.) With settings of full, two-thirds and one-third power, a fresh 510 battery should provide at least 500 flashes at full power and 1,500 at low, according to the manufacturer. Our experience has shown batteries that are refrigerated between uses can easily double this figure.

The Power Pack 200 uses a stick of removable batteries. The unit will provide enough full power flashes to shoot two rolls of film (five rolls on low) before a recharge or replacement stick is required.

The recycle time at full power with a fresh 510 volt battery is four to six sec-

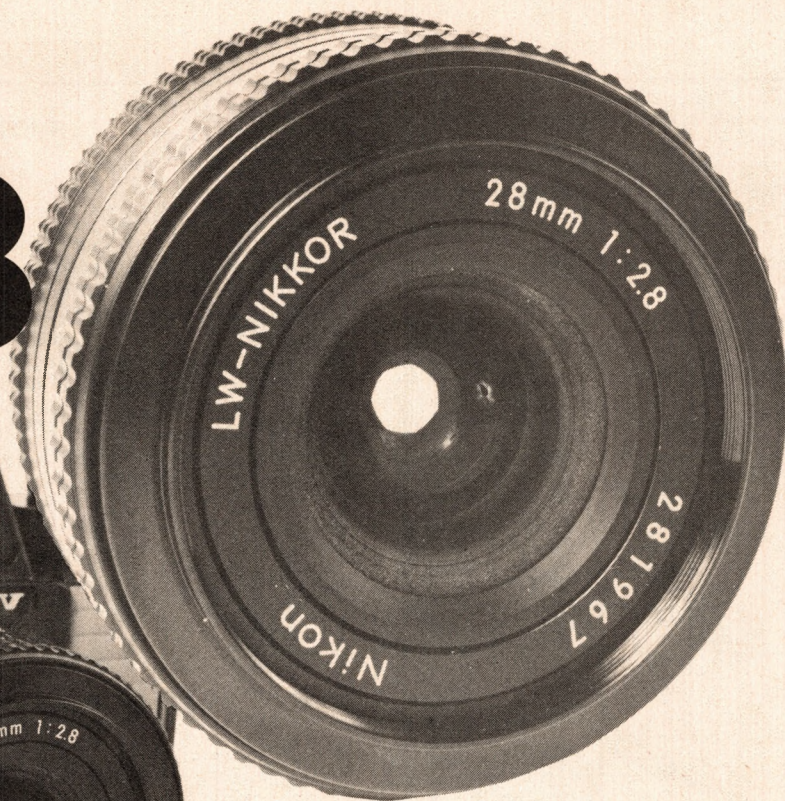
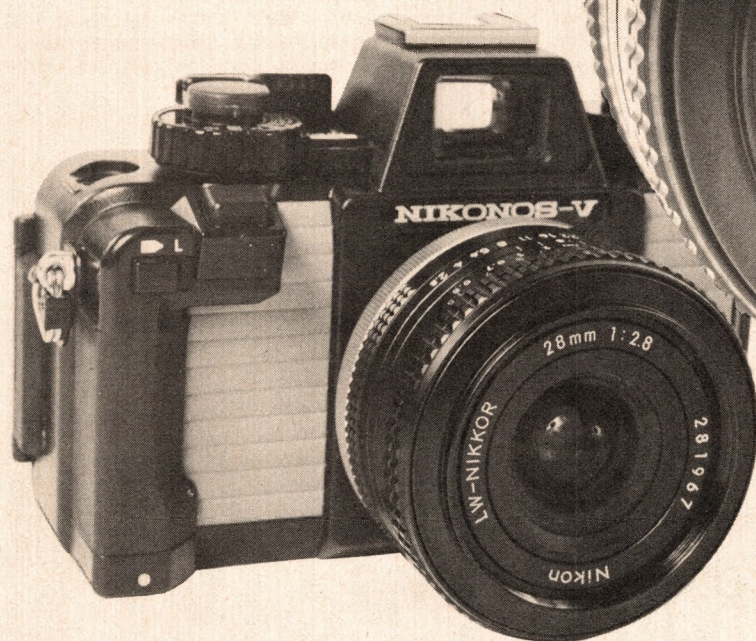
onds. When using the Power Pack 200, recharge time is three to four seconds.

Subsea has just announced it will introduce through-the-lens (TTL) flash metering on the Mark 150 series this year. That means Nikonos V users can take advantage of the total flash automation of the camera and still have an ultra wide angle strobe. Older Mark 150s can be retrofitted to use the Nikonos V TTL.

The new clear Mark 150 has a list price of \$699 with EO connector. With Nikonos connectors the price is slightly less, \$690. The standard black unit lists at \$625 with EO, \$617 with Nikonos connectors. It is also available in see-through orange for \$675 with EO, \$667 with Nikonos. The Power Pack 200 lists for \$199 and extra sticks are \$75 each. Prices for the TTL circuitry will be announced later.

The Mark 150 comes with a full two year warranty. For additional information on all Graflex/Subsea products see your local dive retailer or write: Graflex/Subsea, 1030 W. 15th St., Riviera Beach, Florida 33404.

THE NIKONOS LW 28



A Super Sharp Land Lens For An U/W Camera

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY GERI MURPHY

For more than 20 years the Nikonos has served as the diver's most trusted photographic companion. Through five different models this camera has been the most versatile 35 mm underwater photo machine for amateurs and professionals alike. It has produced millions of excellent underwater pictures. There was only one drawback—the Nikonos was severely limited when it came to above water photography. The 35 mm amphibious lens left little room for creativity. Furthermore, the best Nikonos lenses (UW 28 mm and UW 15 mm) were strictly for use underwater; they could not be used in air.

The end result was that most Nikonos owners seeking really sharp land photos, and a certain degree of creative flexibility, were forced to carry along a topside 35 mm SLR camera and a collection of lenses for it.

Nikon has recently solved the above water dilemma of the Nikonos, much to the delight of the photo/diving fraternity. The company has introduced a brand new semi-wide angle land lens called the LW 28 mm. Unlike the UW 28 mm, this new LW 28 works in air but not underwater. It is not an amphibious lens like the 35 mm, but a true above water lens with the high quality found in all Nikkor lenses.

The LW 28 mm has bayonet mount just

like all other Nikonos lenses. It is designed specifically for the Nikonos (any model) and will not fit a land type Nikon SLR. The LW 28 is a bit larger and heavier than the amphibious 35.

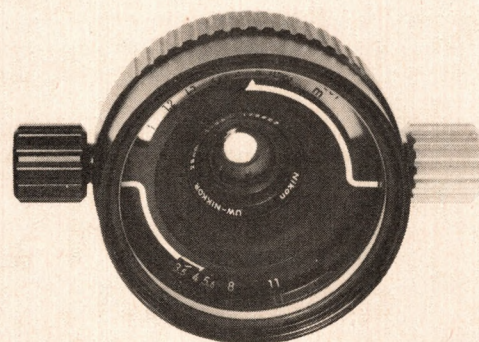
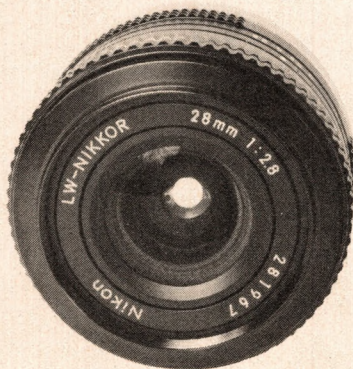
The optical design of the LW 28 features a focal length of 28 mm with a picture angle of 74 degrees. It has five high quality glass elements positioned in five groups. It features standard ring type controls for focusing and aperture adjustment just like most Nikkor lenses. The

rings move smoothly and evenly with the precision of an expensive optical device.

Aperture control on the LW 28 covers a full range of seven different f stops. The widest aperture is f 2.8, the smallest, f 22. Two of the f stop settings are color coded and match the depth of field indicator lines on the barrel of the lens: F 11 is color coded in blue; f 22 is coded orange.

The lens can be focused down to 1.5 feet (0.5 meter) and on out to infinity. The distance scale is marked in both feet (yel-

The LW 28 mm lens (left) is for topside use and is slightly larger than the UW 28 mm.



low scale) and meters (white scale). The increments on the footage scale are: 1.5, 2, 3, 5 feet and infinity. This simplified scale allows quick and easy focusing.

The front of the lens is threaded and will accept 52 mm screw type filters, the standard size for most Nikkor lenses. The LW 28 mm lens will not accept the 58 mm filters used with other Nikonos underwater lenses.

There is a variety of accessories available for the LW 28 mm including: a threaded lens hood, selection of filters, hard case, soft pouch and front and rear lens caps.

The LW 28 mm performs like a pro. It looks, feels and operates with the same high precision as all Nikkor land lenses. Best of all, it produces super sharp pictures. There is no longer any need to take your prized Nikon F3, FM or FE on a wet and windswept dive boat.

Incidentally, the LW 28 mm is ideally suited for use on boats. Its focal length is just wide enough to operate within the confines of a dive boat, yet close-up images of people will not be distorted.

There is more good news. The LW 28 mm is water resistant. You can shoot pictures in the pouring rain or in the bow spray of a moving boat. After use at sea, clean the lens, while it is still on the camera, by giving it a quick rinse under a freshwater faucet or shower. One word of caution however, *never, never*, submerge the LW 28 mm lens in a dip tank or take it underwater: It is not fully water or pressure proof.

Another benefit of the LW 28 mm lens is its great depth of field. At $f/11$ everything from three feet to infinity is in focus. (The same setting on the 35 mm produces an in-focus range of six feet to infinity.) Depth of field becomes crucial when the photographer does not have reflex viewing and must depend on his/her estimation of distances. This is where the LW 28 mm lens excels. At $f/22$, the depth of field is two feet to infinity for distance shots or 1.5 feet to 5 feet up close.

At a suggested retail price of \$210, the LW 28 mm is an attractive and welcome addition to the Nikonos owner's repertoire of lenses. In fact, I consider it a must and would not think of traveling without it.

For more information about the LW 28 mm contact your authorized Nikonos dealer or write: Nikon Inc., 623 Stewart Ave., Garden City, NY 11530-4763.

LW-NIKKOR 28 MM

Lens5 elements in five groups
Picture angle.....74 degrees
Distance scale0.5 m to infinity
Aperture scale.....f2.8-f22
Attachment size52 mm
Dimensions.....68.5 mm by 57 mm
Weight240 grams



The LW 28 mm lens has a picture angle of 74 degrees. At an aperture of $f/11$ everything from three feet to infinity is in sharp focus. While the LW 28 is not fully water or pressure proof, it is water resistant. With this lens attached to a Nikonos camera, you can shoot pictures in the pouring rain or in the spray generated by a dive boat. Left: In this photo the LW 28 picks up good resolution in shadow areas. It is excellent for shooting large objects at reasonable distances.

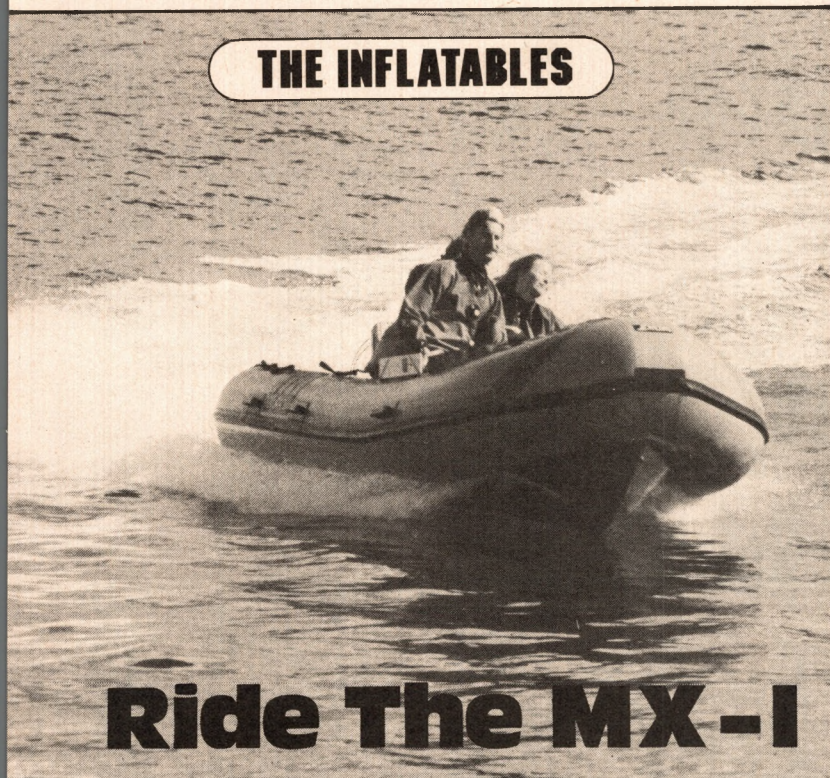


The LW 28 offers extremely sharp detail, without edge distortion, at medium distances.



The LW 28 performs superbly in close while maintaining excellent depth of field.

THE INFLATABLES



Ride The MX-1

Novurania Reveals Radical Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIC HANAUER

This article is not about a missile, although an overzealous advertising copywriter might be tempted to compare the performance of the Novurania MX-1 with its military namesake. Instead, it is about the newest Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) to be introduced to our shores, a product of one of Italy's most respected manufacturers. By mating a fiberglass deep-V hull to inflatable tubes, boat builders can combine the lightweight, high performance and stability of an inflatable with the smoother ride, tracking ability and comfort of a hard hulled boat.

Although a wide range of RIBs has been available in Europe for several years, manufacturers were slow to introduce them to the United States. Nearly all inflatable boat companies participating in the recent British boat show displayed fiberglass hull models; in Italy RIBs account for 40 percent of inflatable sales. The American public's enthusiastic acceptance of the few models imported thus far has prompted more companies to send over their versions.

Whether it's automobiles, diving equipment or boats, Italians are extremely style conscious and pride themselves on design. Novurania's wooden keeled boats already had an excellent reputation for performance and quality, so we were anxious to see whether these characteristics would carry over into their RIB.

From the waterline up, the MX-1 looks good. Its gray tubes are trimmed in black and red, with a heavy rub strake around the perimeter. There are three large rubber handles on each side and one at the bow. Molded for a comfortable handgrip, they also doubled as cleats. Three nylon grab lines are fastened to the top of the pontoons on each side. Set atop the high bow is a mahogany bowdoger, which can be folded to allow more open space. The distinctive lacing cuff across the bow reminds one of a moustache, but this feature has become a distinguishing characteristic of Novurania boats.

The feature which sets the MX-1 apart from other Novuranias, however, is its red fiberglass hull. Such a hull makes sense in a 15 foot boat. A vessel that long usually won't be folded and unfolded. It is going to be stored on a trailer anyway, so it might as well have a fiberglass hull. Constructed of an outer shell with an inner liner, the MX-1's hull has a flat floor with a molded, non-skid surface. In the bow is a large V-shaped storage well which is protected from spray by a flap hanging from the rear of the bowdoger. The flap contains a Velcro-closed pocket for additional storage. Two fuel tank wells are molded into the stern, along with a water well to keep splash out of the passenger compartment. Self-bailing drains are standard equipment; they can also

drain the inner hull in the unlikely chance that a crack occurs.

Two flanges of rubber form a glued seam that connects the hull to the tubes. The tubes are an integral part of the hull design, giving it a deep-V cathedral effect. The resulting ride is better than that of a comparable hard hulled boat. If a deep-V is combined with a cathedral effect all the way to the stern, the vessel becomes unstable side to side: Inflatable tubes lend the stability needed to overcome the problem.

Novurania is one of the few inflatable boat manufacturers that makes its own material. In an era when many have gone over to plastic construction, they still use the old method of coating the base fabric. First, two coats of Hypalon/neoprene mixture are rolled into the 1,000 denier Trevira polyester fabric, both inside and out. Then a final exterior coat of 100 percent Hypalon is "knifed" to the outside. This is done by machine: The mixture is spread like butter by knifelike blades. The resulting material is more resistant to ozone and abrasion than one which doesn't have an outer layer of Hypalon.

Like most Italian boats, Novurania's seams are lateral instead of circular. An indication of care and quality construction, lateral seams look better and aid rigidity. Its four chambers are filled through

(Continued on Page 130)





Divers have always had to face a trade-off in watch bands: Those that adjust easily are usually not appropriate for dress wear. For instance, a rubber or Velcro® strap can be set quickly to accommodate the added thickness produced by a wetsuit sleeve at the wrist. However, on dress occasions, the rubber or Velcro strap might not look elegant enough. Most watch bracelets, on the other hand, offer elegance at the price of easy adjustment.

Scubapro offers an elegant bracelet that solves this problem in a unique way. More importantly, the watch it comes with is a sturdy, stylish, accurate timepiece with diver-friendly features, including easy service.

The Swiss made Scubaquartz Watch is, first, a diver's timepiece. With a scratch resistant, mineral crystal, recessed below the bezel, and a stainless steel case, it is water tested to 660 feet. Its quartz movement is accurate to within one minute a year. The screw down crown is recessed in the case for protection from bangs against rocks and dive gear. The stainless steel bezel has a surface that can be gripped easily with gloved fingertips and its ratcheted mechanism will only allow it to be turned counterclockwise. It's unlikely the bezel could be turned accidentally, but if it were, any error in elapsed dive time would be on the side of safety—more time indicated than actually elapsed.

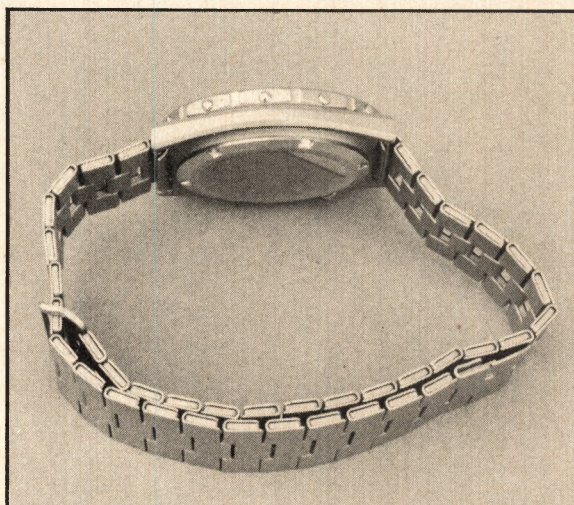
The hour marks on the watch face, as well as the minute and hour hands and the zero mark on the bezel, are luminous for easy reading in dim light. There is a date window at the three o'clock position on the face. The presence of a second hand allows the diver to easily adjust his/her ascent rate to that specified by the dive tables.

As analog watches go, the Scubaquartz is low profile and relatively light. It has the look of a diver's watch

the Scubaquartz

Scubapro Introduces A Thinline Stainless Steel Diver Watch With A Quik Adjust Bracelet

BY JIM WALKER



photos/Bonnie J. Cardone

The Scubaquartz Watch is low profile, lightweight and made of stainless steel. Available in either satin chrome or black, it has a unique bracelet that can be quickly adjusted to fit a wide variety of wrist sizes.

without the bulk that commonly goes with it. This complements the attractive satin chrome (men's model only) or black with gold accent finish (men's and women's models). The watch face also complements the package, being gray with the satin chrome model and black with the black. The stainless steel bracelet matches the watch finish.

As alluded to earlier, the bracelet on the Scubaquartz is an excellent feature. Here's how it works: One half of the bracelet slips through a slot at the tip of the other half. The result is a loop similar to that formed around your waist by a belt. Pulling on the overlap tightens the band. When the bracelet is adjusted to the proper size, the diver simply lays the overlap down and pushes a tooth at the end of it into the proper slot in the bracelet. Not only does this arrangement allow the bracelet to fit a wide variety of wrist sizes, it also locks it in position.

The Scubaquartz retails for \$260 and comes with a limited one year warranty. Its battery is rated to last 24 months. All service can be taken care of at Scubapro, allowing a quick turnaround time. An accuracy check, battery replacement and pressure test cost approximately \$30. See it at your Scubapro dealer. 

Technifacts

BY E.R. CROSS



This month's Technifacts is about another discovery I made during my 3,000 mile drive across Washington, Idaho and Oregon. It is also a sharing event by the very active Rip-Tiders Scuba Club of Salem, Oregon; a sharing of exciting diving in the crystalline waters of Clear Lake. In its azure depths is a ghost forest of ancient Douglas fir.

Any lake is an anomaly of the cycle of the water pumped into the air by evaporation, recondensed and distributed as rain or snow over the land. Normally water falls on the land and drains into streams that flow more or less directly into the sea. Lakes result when water fills natural or manmade depressions in the stream bed that block the even flow of water to the sea. As discussed in the March and April Technifacts, manmade dams are one of the causes of the depressions in stream beds.

Dams can also occur as a result of cataclysmic natural events. Glacial moraine, landslides, avalanches and lava flows can all block the flow of a stream and create a lake. Clear Lake was created, perhaps 3,000 years ago, when lava flowed from a cinder cone on the south slope of Sand Mountain across the narrow valley. It filled the the bed of the McKenzie River to a depth of almost 200 feet.

One of the results of lava flows is the formation of tree trunk molds. These occur when hot lava piles up around the tree trunks and cools. The tree trunk burns away in the process. Many of these tree molds, preserved in the vicinity of Clear Lake, are 1-5 feet in diameter and 6-15 feet tall. Those that are vertical widen toward the base. There are also lava tubes and trenches left when fallen trees were burned away by lava.

This is not the nature of the shadowy trees of the ghost forest of Clear Lake. When the lava dam that blocked the McKenzie River was formed, the rising water slowly covered large trees growing along the banks. Those are now submerged and can be seen in the depths of the lake. Because of the cold water, the gentle currents and mineral free nature of the lake, these trees have been preserved and form what is certainly Oregon's oldest forest. Wood samples taken from the hearts of some of them show

them to be as sound as their counterparts on dry land. Tall trees, with their tops above the ultimate lake level, where they were exposed to air, withered and rotted away to the water line. In the shallow end of the lake the tops of the taller trees have been trimmed even more to prevent damage to boats.

Today the lake is about 6,600 feet long and has an average width of 935 feet (1,200 feet at its widest). It is hourglass shaped and covers about 142 acres. Along the eastern shore a later lava flow stopped just short of filling the lake.

Since the formation of the lake frequent ash falls have coated the bottom. Moss growth and algae blooms have added to the layers of material around the ancient tree trunks. Hoary submerged logs festooned with long streamers of moss add to the eerie feeling when diving in this drowned forest.

Several large springs of 40°F water, believed to be from the upper portion of the McKenzie River and buried beneath earlier lava flows, flow into the northern end of Clear Lake and out through the dammed portion. Because of this generally southerly flow of water, the northern section of the lake is usually clearer than the southern area. Visibility can be as much as 125 feet in the northern section. The maximum depth of the lake, at the southern end, is 195 feet.

There are recreational facilities at Coldwater Cove campground and at Clear Lake Resort. At Coldwater Cove there is a vista point where non-divers can view the underwater trees. One of the largest springs feeding the lake, Great Springs, can also be seen by non-divers from the trail on the northeast side of the lake. Cabins and snacks are available at the campgrounds. Row boats can be rented. Power boats of any kind are prohibited.

Entrance into the water by divers can be from a row boat or from any of the gently sloping shore areas. Perhaps the easiest place to start any underwater exploration is at the northern end of the lake where a vehicle can be parked close to the water. Here the shore slopes gently into deeper water with some of the best visibility in the lake. The lake bottom is generally of light colored material interspersed with mounds of dark lava. The

eastern shoreline is quite abrupt and drops off into deep water rapidly. The underwater forest and sunken logs provide artificial reefs for large trout and other fish. This is a unique treasure and should be visited by divers at least once.

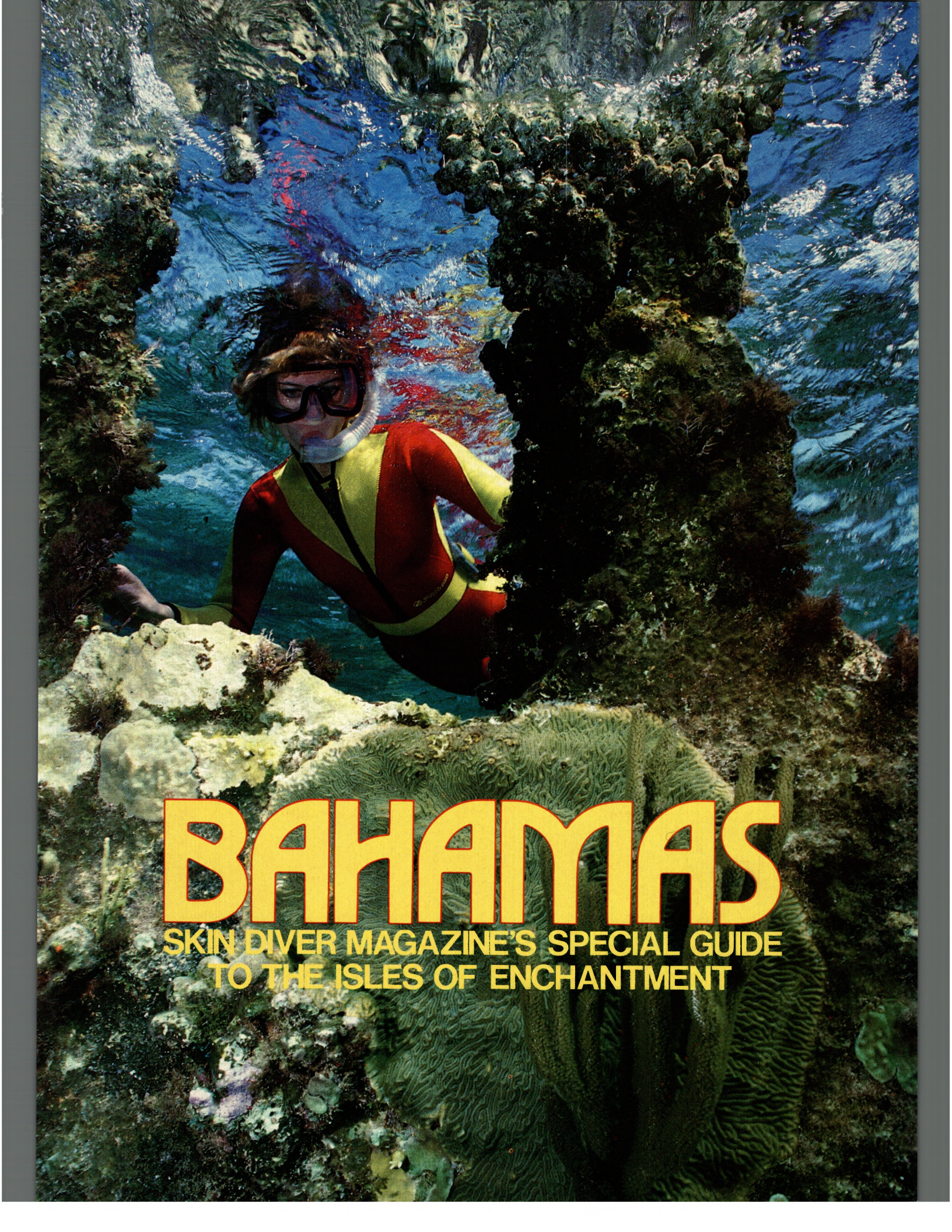
While in Salem I spent an interesting evening with Chuck Glender, president; Brad McElroy, vice president; Diana Duhse, treasurer; and other members of the Rip-Tiders Scuba Club and found out just how active they are. There are about 50 active divers with 50 percent of the members living within 40 miles of Salem. Programs to develop product knowledge and diving physiology are held at the meetings and dive tables are reviewed. Safety training dives are held routinely in a pool.

It was a pleasant experience meeting the members of this club. Particularly I want to thank Diana Duhse for the fine work she did in getting additional information on Clear Lake.

EARLY DIVING PUBLICATIONS AND FILMS

SKIN DIVER Magazine readers occasionally bring up the subject of early diving publications and films on diving. Technifacts is researching this subject and will try to compile a complete list of publications, films etc., from year one of diving. Such a list will predate most of today's sport divers. In my library I have about 100 dive magazines representing 36 different publications from 18 countries, including one of the very few complete sets of SKIN DIVER. I also have a number of the early books and manuals that dealt with diving and a couple of early U.S. Divers and Healthways catalogs.

I am particularly interested in hearing from divers who have copies of early, commercially produced motion picture films on or showing diving—sorry, no home movies. Titles, dates, etc., of such films would be of interest. I have, in my film library, perhaps 15 films, the earliest probably dating to about 1947 or so. What films do other readers of SDM have? If you are interested in a list of my films let me hear from you via SKIN DIVER Magazine, 8490 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90069.

A full-page underwater photograph of a scuba diver. The diver is wearing a red wetsuit with yellow accents on the shoulders and chest, a black diving mask, and a snorkel. They are swimming horizontally, slightly above a large, light-colored coral head. The background shows a deep blue sea with sunlight filtering through the water, creating a shimmering effect. The overall scene is vibrant and captures the beauty of underwater life.

BAHAMAS

SKIN DIVER MAGAZINE'S SPECIAL GUIDE
TO THE ISLES OF ENCHANTMENT



It is easy to describe the physical aspects of the Bahamas, but somewhat more difficult to verbalize the peace, pleasure and relaxation which derive from a Bahamas experience. There are 700 islands and more than 2,000 islets, cays and rock formations sprinkled across at least 100,000 square miles of sparkling clear ocean. These are islands of superb tourist amenities interspersed among miles of empty white sand beach, landscaped lawns, shrubs, brush palm and pine trees. The natives are friendly and geographically, if not culturally, the Bahamas are very near. Their western boundary is within 60 miles of the Florida coast and commercial aircraft, cruise ships, private planes, yachts and live-aboard dive boats carry the diver to experience an immense underwater wonderland, only a small fraction of which has yet been explored. From the pale turquoise of the Great Bahama Bank to the rich indigo of the Tongue of the Ocean, the Bahamas are a watersports paradise of great beauty.

The language of the Bahamas is English and for the most part can be understood by the average American. The currency is the Bahamian dollar which is equal to, and used inter-

BAHAMAS BOUND

TO THE ISLANDS ACROSS THE STREAM



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN FRINK



Above: Snorkeling over the *Potamac*

Left: A Chalk's seaplane departs Miami for Bimini and Nassau.



Above: Big Game Club, Bimini

Below: Grouper feeding, Rum Cay



BAHAMAS

changeably with, the American dollar. The electrical power is the same as that used in the United States (120 volts at 60 cycles) and is generally stable enough for electric razors, hair dryers and rechargeable photographic gear. Some areas may experience surges in electrical current occasionally, so it is good to check with the hotel or photo center before charging items subject to damage.

The Bahamas are very receptive to the U.S. tourist and make the paperwork necessary for entry minimal. Citizens of the United States and Canada need not present passports for admission, although passports are honored. Official proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or voter's registration is also accepted, but a driver's license is not adequate documentation. Guns, ammunition, explosives and recreational drugs are absolutely illegal in the Bahamas and penalties can be quite stiff. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs are not likely to be a problem, but it is best to be forthright with the customs inspector regarding the contents of baggage. Traveling divers with substantial amounts of underwater photo gear will rarely encounter difficulty unless the inspector believes the gear is being brought into the country to resell or unless the photographer is suspected of being on a professional assignment without the appropriate work permit. Thorough customs documentation on the official U.S. Customs forms listing each piece of equipment and corresponding serial number will generally satisfy the agent that all the equipment coming in will go back out, but of course every U/W photographer traveling with an extensive camera collection should take this precaution, regardless of the destination.

The climate of the Bahamas varies according to their two major seasons, winter and summer or in the perception of the traveling diver, the good season and the great season. In the winter the air temperature may range from 68°F to 78°F from November through April and the sun usually shines. The cooler temperatures will also affect the water temperature which may range from 70 to 76°F. In the cooler ranges a wetsuit is definitely recommended. Of course, with air temperatures in the high 70s and water temperatures in the low 70s, the experience is quite balmy compared with the wind-chilled sub-zero conditions experienced throughout most of the northern U.S. at the same time. The winter in the Bahamas will also bring more consistent winds with a potentially disruptive effect on the diving. Many of the dive operations will feature both windward and leeward dive sites so that the divers can ex-

perience fine diving regardless of the direction of the wind. Most operations I spoke with were blown out very few days during the year.

Summer in the Bahamas is a spectacular season with air temperatures ranging from 76 to 88°F, moderated by a cooling ocean breeze. The water can warm up to the high 80s and seas can become flat, calm and glassy. A wetsuit is recommended only as protection from fire coral and abrasion during the summer and visibility may pick up to 200 feet. Even though diving conditions are at the abso-

lute best during the summer, travel hits its peak during the winter. Therefore the diver planning a summer vacation will experience less crowded conditions in the hotel and on the dive boat.

Attire in the Bahamas is usually quite casual with shorts, T-shirts, jeans and sport shirts most often adequate. For evening wear, nice slacks and a sport shirt or a cotton skirt and blouse will be sufficient for most occasions. However, if the itinerary includes Nassau or Freeport and a night in the casinos or nightclubs, a sport coat or dress might be appropri-

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BAHAMAS

ate. A light jacket or windbreaker might be worn at night or on the boat during the winter months. In the summer protection from the sun, including a hat and sunscreen, should be mandatory.

While transportation to the Bahamas includes just two major subdivisions, boat and airplane, the permutations of each form of transit can be potentially confusing. For example, air transportation may involve jets or smaller, propeller driven aircraft and may originate in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Tampa or Dallas and may terminate in Nassau, Freeport or any number of Family Islands. Flights may also come in from Bermuda, Kingston or other Caribbean destinations, so suffice it to say that the Bahamas are extremely accessible by air. Each dive resort has specific airlines and connections it has found to be the most convenient and most areas are equally accessible by private aircraft. A call to the booking office of the dive operation or Bahamas Sports Information at (800) 32-SPORT (327-7678) will clarify air transport options.

Boats may enter and clear customs in the Abacos at Green Turtle Cay, Marsh Harbour, Sandy Point and Walker's Cay; in Andros at Congo Town, Fresh Creek, Mangrove Cay, Nicholl's Town and San Andros; in the Berry Islands at Chub Cay and Great Harbour Cay; in Bimini at Alice Town; in Eleuthera at Cape Eleuthera, Governor's Harbour, Harbour Island, Hatched Bay and Rock Sound; in Exuma at George Town; on Grand Bahama at Freeport, Lucaya and West End; on New Providence at Nassau; and on Ragged Island at Duncan Town. Because the Bahamas are so close, the average planing boat can reach Bimini in two hours and even the slower trawler-type will require only six hours for an average crossing. Once in the Bahamas there is ample day cruising with protected anchorages and exciting watersports throughout the islands. Provisions are easily obtainable and should a mechanical difficulty occur, help should be relatively near. Because of these significant cruising advantages, a fine fleet of live-aboard dive boats is presently working in the Bahamas. The cruise ship is the third alternative to ship-board access to the Bahamas and most of these are now sensitive to the desire of their guests to experience the coral reef either by snorkel or scuba and have incorporated diving field trips. However, the cruise ship will not offer the heavy emphasis on diving available either from a land-based dive operation or a live-aboard dive vessel.

Geographically, the Bahamas are spread out along an immense arc, 750

miles long, stretching from a latitude approximately even with Palm Beach to a point south of Cuba. It stands to reason then that there can be no universal discussion of Bahamas diving, for while the islands may be occasionally similar in underwater terrain, they are also quite different. Weather patterns can vary from the southern Bahamas to the northern Bahamas and wind patterns can shift leaving one island in the lee and another exposed to the prevailing wind. The diving available throughout the Bahamas is quite exciting and there is probably greater variety represented here than anywhere else on earth. Some islands will feature dramatic walls and others may be blessed by a magnificent barrier reef with an abundance of snorkeling and shallow diving available. Wrecks are liberally sprinkled throughout the Bahamas, a testament to the extensive coral reef system surrounding these islands, and they are a thrilling portion of the Bahamas dive portfolio. Combined with the significantly different diving available from island to island is a widely diverse level of accommodations and topside attractions, making it necessary to evaluate each island's vacation potential individually. We will begin our discussion with the islands of the northern Bahamas and work south.

THE ABACOS

Situated slightly north of the Palm Beaches to about the same latitude as Miami, the Abacos represent a major group of islands in the northeast corner of the country. These lie in an elbow-shaped 130 mile arc, faced on one side by the open Atlantic and on the other by the Great Bahama Bank. Great Abaco is the largest land mass, but there are several dozen small islands and cays, with several top quality dive resorts scattered throughout. There is a large airport near Marsh Harbour and another airport capable of handling jets at Treasure Cay. Walker's Cay has its own small landing strip as well.

WALKER'S CAY (kā) is a private, 100 acre, one resort island devoted primarily to sportfishing, boating and diving. Among lush vegetation, swimming pools and tennis courts are 62 double occupancy hotel rooms, three villas and the super-deluxe Harbor House, a three bedroom, three bath retreat renting for \$700 per day. The other accommodations are significantly more reasonable and the 75 slip marina is often at full capacity during the summer season. About ten years ago diving began to augment sportfishing in the general marketing plan for the resort and today divers are an important percentage of the guest roster.

Even though most people don't go to Walker's Cay for structured entertainment, there are things to do there other than dive or fish. There is the Lobster Trap disco with pool tables and video

machines, fine dining and a beautiful freeport shopping facility. Still, the diving remains a great attraction and most sites are within 15 minutes of the dock. The dive boat is a 33 foot Ensign, with a diesel engine, capable of holding 26 divers. Another boat is expected soon. Comfort and convenience are high priorities of the dive charters: Guests are not expected to carry their own gear and ice, fresh water and beach towels are provided with every charter.

The average dive profile includes a morning one tank dive to a reef in the 30-50 foot range and a second dive in the afternoon to a different reef. Night dives are available on request and there is even a drift dive at 100 feet on the standard itinerary. This dive is especially interesting, with large barrel sponges, nurse sharks, an occasional blacktip shark, turtles, African pompano, horse-eye jacks, snapper, spadefish, grouper and frequent sightings of pelagics.

Other dives include the **Old Wreck**, a shallow 15 foot dive or snorkel reef with the remnants of an old ship strewn about the bottom. There is copper sheeting, pins and an occasional artifact among excellent macro subjects such as feather-dusters, basket starfish and various invertebrates. There is reportedly a "pet"



octopus living within the sponge-encrusted anchor winch and angelfish and queen triggers are common sights. **Jeanette's Reef** features a garden eel community at 30 feet, lots of lobster and an incredible variety of both hard corals and soft gorgonians. This is a frequent destination for night divers and octopus are frequently found here as well. **Nick's Reef** features the most extensive cavern and tunnel complex, often populated by huge schools of glassy minnows and their predators, grouper and snapper. There is black coral to be found only 30 feet below the surface and magnificent



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BAHAMAS

brain and star corals. The whole complex is only 35 feet deep, with parts of the coral awash at low tide, so Nick's Reef is appropriate for either divers or snorkelers. **White Hole** is the fish feeding station and as such features fabulous fish populations. On the way out the divemasters and guests usually snorkel up some conch to feed the angelfish, grouper and yellowtail which swarm about posing and eliciting handouts. **Queen's Reef** is another of the nearly 20 dive sites regularly visited by the dive boat *Walker's Lady*. It features a sprawling coral reef with a natural amphitheater rising from 50 feet to within 15 feet of the surface. Eagle and leopard rays are commonly sighted here, as well as angelfish, parrotfish, snapper and the range of Caribbean tropicals.

The TREASURE CAY BEACH HOTEL is among the more elegant resort developments in the Bahamas, approximately 30 miles north of Marsh Harbour. Golf and tennis complement a full watersports program including scuba instruction, dive charters and sailing. There is cable TV in the rooms (an unusual convenience in the Bahamas), comfortable accommodations and a spectacular sand beach. Treasure Cay is a first class resort development as evidenced by the multi-hundred thousand dollar yachts moored in the marina.

The dive operation is conducted by the Underwater Explorer's Society (UNEXSO). It is a professional facility with rental scuba gear, scuba instruction and dive charters aboard a 30 foot Island Hopper. The large majority of their divers are guests of the resort, but with a lodging capacity of 400 guests and a boat capacity limited to 15 divers for the two tank dive or 25 for a combination dive and snorkel group, the dive concession is often quite busy. It is a good idea to book the dive/lodging package together, but since so many of the guests at Treasure Cay come for the golf, boating and beach, there is usually room on the boat even at the last minute.

One of my favorite dives off Treasure Cay is the wreck of the **San Jacinto**, a 140 foot Union gunboat that ran aground in 1865 while in pursuit of a Confederate gun runner. The ship was a steel-hulled steamer. Today, the boilers, propeller, crankshaft decking and miscellaneous debris lie in 15-50 feet with the stern section still partly intact. The most exciting aspect to this dive, aside from the historical perspective, is the incredible fish populations the ship has attracted. There are snapper, grunts, glass minnows, porkfish, angelfish, barracuda, triggerfish and two performing moray eels which have been trained by divemaster Joel Pratt.

There are more than 10 major dive sites in the 15-70 foot depth range and many more awaiting discovery. The **Catcombs** lie in 15-25 feet and feature caverns populated by large schools of tropical fish, high profile corals and generally very good visibility. **The Arches** feature the same general reef formation but are on the Barrier Reef and are very vertical on the ocean side. Grouper, jewfish and various tropicals populate this wall to the 70 foot depth and The Arches provide exciting wide angle photographic props. **Grouper Canyon** is another fish feeding station that Joel and divemaster Kevin Albury have developed. It is notable for good fish populations and a semitame barracuda.

Marsh Harbour serves as the crossroads for the Abacos with numerous small cays clustered about and several marinas and hotels for tourists coming to relax, sightsee, fish and dive. One of the pioneers of Bahamas diving, Skeet LaChance, has established his diving operation, DIVE ABACO, LTD., at the Marsh Harbour Marina. He offers dive/lodging packages with the Great Abaco Beach Hotel, Abaco Towns and the Ambassador Inn. Another dive operation in the Marsh Harbour area is ISLAND MARINE on Parrot Cay.

During my visit to the Marsh Harbour area I was able to dive with Skeet LaChance and was impressed with his efforts to preserve and enhance the reef ecology. Skeet has established several fish feeding stations and puts on a very entertaining grouper show. Maybe show isn't the right word exactly, but you do get a feeling these fish have come to perform. It is often hard to get far enough from these critters to take their pictures and even without food in the water the fish will follow you. Skeet has championed the establishment of the Fowl Cay Undersea Park and within its boundaries is ample fine diving. Among my favorite dives is a feeding station, **Grouper Alley**, 40 feet deep with a sandy bottom and high mounds of coral, swim-through tunnels and convoluted passageways populated by grouper, angelfish, mackerel, spotted eel, Bermuda chub and the occasional turtle or shark. **Tunnels**, at 20 feet, is another feeding station with even more grouper, caves with copper sweepers, trunkfish, blue tang, lobster, coney and a variety of other tropicals. In addition, there is a fascinating **Train Wreck** in only 15-20 feet of water. Not to be confused with the train wreck off Spanish Wells, this newly discovered wreck consists of two mostly intact locomotives on their sides, huge wheels and miscellaneous wreckage. From the early 1900s there was a pulp mill near Marsh Harbour with a narrow gauge railroad. These two locomotives were being shipped on a barge that ran aground and the trains were claimed by the sea. They rest in clear water near the barrier reef and provide stunning props for wide angle pho-

tos. The wreck of the **Adirondack** is also in shallow water, 10-25 feet and is mostly comprised of ribs and rubble but is noteworthy for the 12 cannons still visible. The barrier reef is 150 miles long and, theoretically, all is divisible in the right conditions, either on the inside or the outside. Consequently, the dive operators are frequently discovering new sites, many of which are suitable for either scuba or snorkel. With a week visit to any of the fine dive operations of Abaco, the traveling diver will be treated to great variety, good dive boats and topside amenities and the relatively low-key, relaxed atmosphere so typical of the Family Islands.

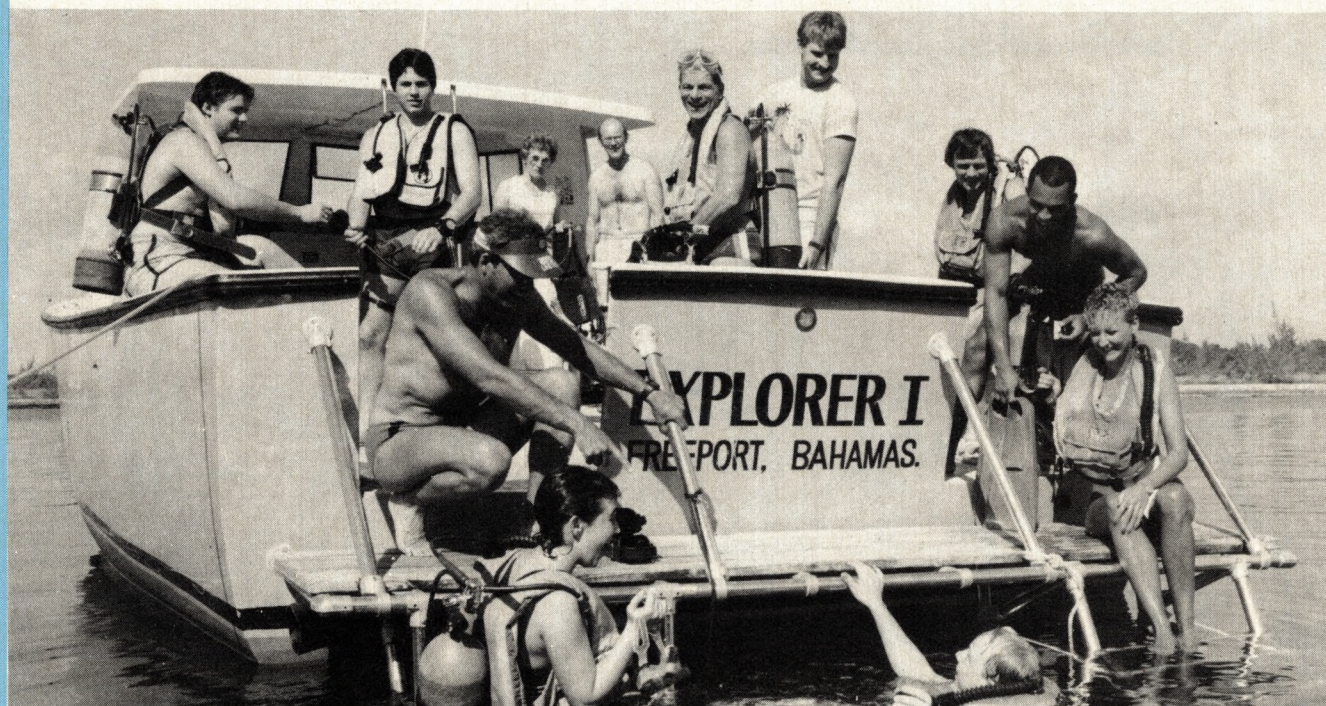
GRAND BAHAMA

At the Northwest corner of the Bahamas, Grand Bahama is situated along a latitude between Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale. It is bordered by the warming current of the Gulf Stream and the deep waters of the Northwest Providence Channel. The island is both large and modern, with excellent shopping, dining and nightlife available in the Bahamas' second largest resort community, Freeport. Air connections to Freeport are available from major U.S. gateway cities on various airlines, as well as from elsewhere in the Caribbean. Tourism and commerce move the wheels of Freeport and sophisticated resort hotels and casinos have evolved to serve the needs of travelers arriving primarily by commercial aircraft and cruise ship. The Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) has likewise evolved to serve the needs of the scuba diver and snorkeler among this vast tourist populace.

Recently celebrating its 20th anniversary, UNEXSO, under the direction of John Englander, offers a superior scuba instruction program. It also has one of the Caribbean's most complete retail facilities and offers daily boat excursions to the best diving available off Freeport. Packages are available with the Holiday Inn offering price advantages, the convenience of the Holidex reservations system and an adjacent sand beach with a complete watersports program. All of this is within a short walk of the UNEXSO docks. Gear can be stored in convenient dockside lockers and the Tide's Inn is available upstairs for a quick cheeseburger or an après dive cocktail.

There is an impressive 18 foot deep training tank used for resort courses and scuba instruction, modern rental gear, ample classroom space and instructors skilled in all phases of specialty instruction. UNEXSO also features reliable compressors and one of the largest fleets of dive boats in the Bahamas. Among the best dives is **Theo's Wreck**, a 230 foot steel cargo ship deliberately sunk to serve as an artificial reef. It rests at 110 feet close to the edge of the drop-off along the Grand Bahama Ledge. Not only are fish being attracted, but the wide an-

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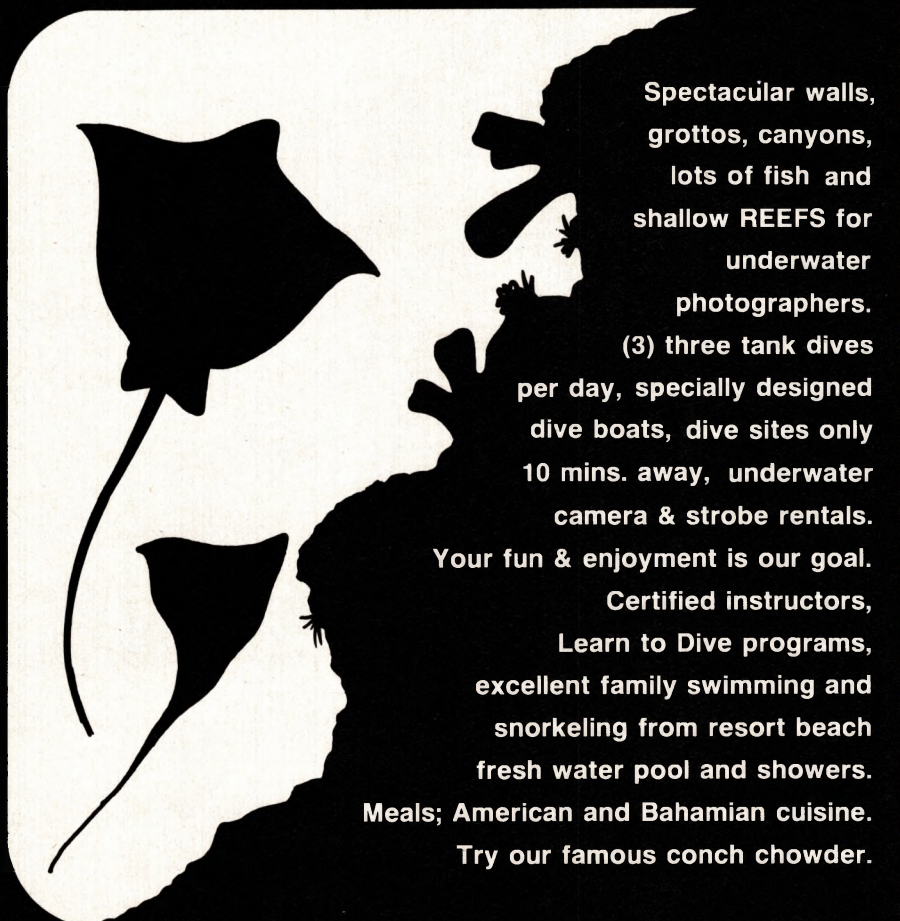
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BAHAMAS

gle vista of an intact shipwreck hanging along the edge of a 2,000 foot precipice is quite exciting. There are very deep wall dives such as the **Cup Handle** at 130-160 feet, more moderate deep reefs at 60-80 feet, medium reefs in the 30-60 foot range and numerous shallow reefs to be found in 10-20 feet of water. Night and cavern dives, mangrove exploration and fish identification are all part of an extensive diver education and recreation at UNEXSO. The quality and professionalism of this organization, coupled with the excellent duty-free shopping, casino gambling, beaches and lavish cabaret shows, combine to make Freeport an interesting Grand Bahama adventure.

At the East End of Grand Bahama is a new dive operation, under the direction of John and Mary Brooks, out of the DEEP WATER CAY CLUB. Both personable and qualified, John and Mary have brought a new dimension to the Deep Water Cay Club which has existed for 25 years as a bonefishing resort. The bonefishermen are still there, but now they share the nine double occupancy rooms with a select group of diving enthusiasts. The resort is 60 miles east of Freeport just off the mainland and divers are transported by van and ferry boat from Freeport. The rooms have 24 hour electricity, there is a main lodge with self-service bar and three meals per day. There are no cabaret shows here, for this is about as out-island as you get, but there is a quality diving operation with a good 27 foot dive boat, limited to 10 divers, and there is superior diving. There are enough ocean and inland blue holes to dive at least two different ones everyday for a week, there are miles of virtually unexplored reef, lots of fish, giant pillar corals, black coral along the deep reef at 110 feet, and for the qualified, spectacular cave diving. The emphasis here is upon small groups with very personalized service and a dedication to great diving.

BIMINI

Only 42 miles east of Miami lies the nearest of the islands which comprise Bimini, actually two main islands plus a number of smaller cays. Visitors may enter Bimini by boat or they may fly into sparsely populated South Bimini where they will go by taxi to the dock and by ferry to Alice Town, the main settlement on North Bimini. Alice Town is directly accessible by Chalk's seaplane from Miami or Ft. Lauderdale as well. The flight is only 20 minutes and, amazingly, I was checked through customs, into my hotel and into the water by 10:00 am on the day of my arrival. I made three dives that first day with Neal Watson's BIMINI UN-

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DERSEA ADVENTURES and was greatly impressed with their efficiency in maximizing my available dive time. Neal is among a handful of Bahamas dive operators with more than 20 years of experience in these waters. His experience and professionalism are evident. Offering packaged dive vacations with either Brown's Hotel or the Big Game Club, Bimini Undersea Adventures will feature the best diving available near Bimini and will do it from safe and efficient dive boats, with good rental gear, E-6 film processing and helpful dive guides.

Neal is distressed by the "Bimini Misconception," i.e., if it is so close to the United States it can't be good. Just flying into Bimini creates a sense of anticipation, for the clear blue waters of the Gulf Stream are evident from above and the drop-off begins close to shore. The 42 miles separating Miami from Bimini create an amazing difference in water clarity. Here the wall begins at 120 feet and is generally done as a drift dive. Divers may float by as swift as five knots, but it is a very controlled dive. Visibility often reaches 200 feet and the view is truly spectacular, with lush deep water gorgonians, giant tube and basket sponges, black coral, schools of pelagic giant tuna and amberjack, eagle rays, an occasional shark and huge groupers. The time to ascend comes all too quickly, but this is one of diving's rare experiences.

Other favorite dives from the Bimini area include the **Sapona**, a 300 foot cement hulled ship which grounded in the shallows during a hurricane. Sitting massively upright in only 15 feet of water, the **Sapona** is host to an incredible number of pufferfish, schools of grunt and snapper, stingrays, sergeant majors and all manner of macro life. Also in shallow water, approximately 15-25 feet, is **Rainbow Reef**, home to a tremendous number of schooling fish. The coral is relatively low profile and I can see no special reason for this prolific life to congregate but there it is, consistently. Nurse sharks are almost always sighted and from a photographic perspective, Rainbow Reef is especially appealing. **Turtle Rocks** is in approximately 35 feet of water with lots of high profile corals, especially star and brain corals. The reef is typified by lots of fish and especially heavy lobster populations. When conditions permit, Bimini Undersea Adventures will schedule a trip to **Victory Reef**, 15 miles to the south. The reef structure is three or four miles long, from 35 to 90 feet deep and features magnificent coral canyons and crevices, as well as exciting fish populations and especially good visibility.

ANDROS

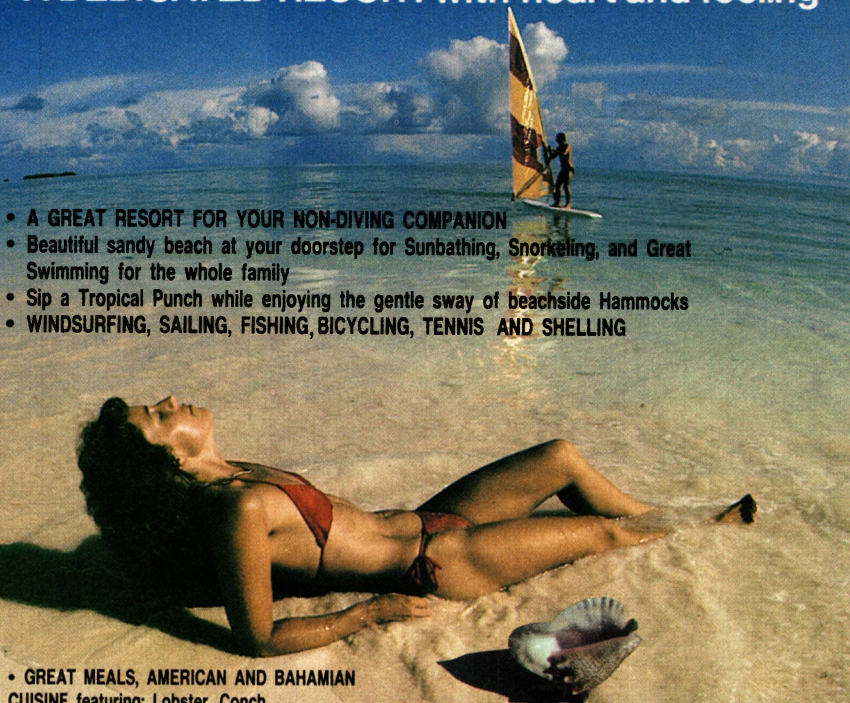
Andros is the largest land mass in the Bahamas and the island featuring the largest amount of untouched, virgin diving. There are only a few settlements along the eastern coast and a magnifi-

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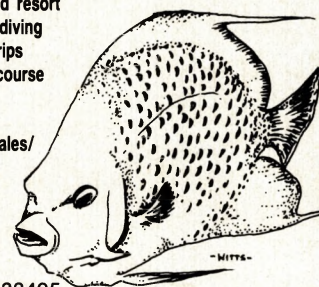
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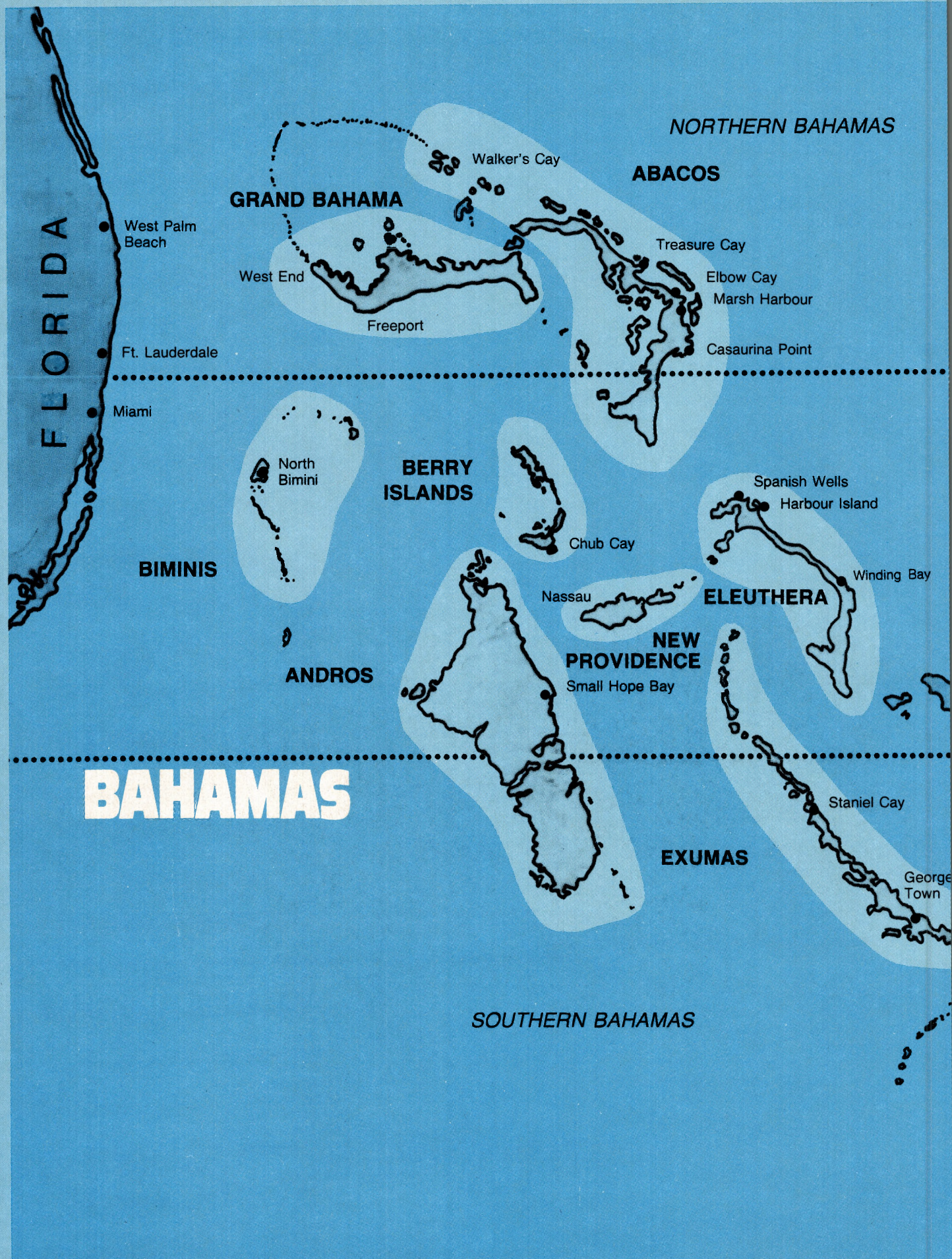
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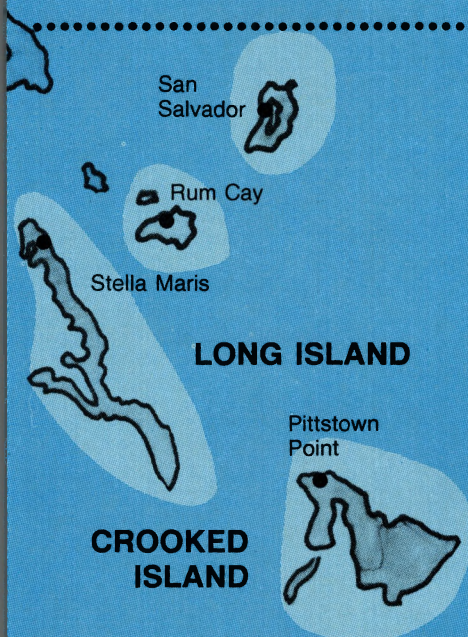


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Dive Operator	Manager	Guides	Dive Boats	Tanks	Hotel(s)	Rooms	Mailing Address	Phone(s)	Remarks
Andros Undersea Adv. Nicholl's Town Andros	Neal Watson	2	40/30 Divers 28/16 Divers	70	Andros Beach Hotel Andros Beach Villas	13 10	Andros Undersea Adventures P.O. Box 21766 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335	(800) 327-8150† (305) 763-2188	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Bahama Divers Ltd. Nassau New Providence Island	Bill Whiteland	6	42/25 Divers 42/25 Divers	80	Ambassador Beach Brittania Towers Holiday Inn	400 600 533	Bahama Divers Ltd. P.O. Box 5004 Nassau, Bahamas	(809) 322-8431 (809) 326-5644	Tourist Diving & Snorkeling
Bimini Undersea Adv. Brown's Marina Dock North Bimini	Neal Watson	4	28/20 Divers 40/24 Divers 40/30 Divers	200	Big Game Fishing Club Blue Water Inn Brown's Hotel	51 20 28	Bimini Undersea Adventures P.O. Box 21766 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335	(800) 327-8150† (305) 763-2188	Independent Dive Operator
Chub Cay Club Chub Cay Berry Islands	Jerry Barnes	2	36/20 Divers	60	Chub Cay Club	55	AT Reef Ventures 280 SW 34th Street Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315	(800) 327-REEF† (305) 524-0106	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Coral Harbour Divers Nassau New Providence Island	Stuart Cove	3	40/14 Divers 30/10 Divers	80	Casuarinas Apts.	36	Compass Dive Tours 2022 Powers Ferry Rd. #230 Atlanta, GA 30339	(809) 326-4171	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Deep Water Cay Club East End Grand Bahama	John and Mary Brooks	2	27/ 8 Divers	30	Deep Water Cay Club	9	Deep Water Cay Club P.O. Box 1145 Palm Beach, FL 33480	(305) 684-3958	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Dive Abaco Marsh Harbour Abaco	Skeet LaChance	2	30/16	80	Great Abaco Beach Hotel Lofty Fig Villas	25	Aqua Adventures Inc. 318 Lexington Ave. New York, NY 10016	(212) 686-6210	Independent Dive Operator
Elbow Cay Club Hope Town Abaco	Michael Maltarp	1	38/10 Divers	24	Elbow Cay Beach Inn	30	Elbow Cay Beach Inn Hope Town Abaco, Bahamas	(800) 327-0787† (809) 367-2748	No Instruction No Rentals
Exuma Aquatics George Town Exuma	Al Zamrok	2	34/18 Divers 34/18 Divers	110	Pieces of Eight	32	Pieces of Eight Hotel P.O. Box 49, George Town Great Exuma, Bahamas	(809) 336-2600	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Exuma Divers Ltd. George Town Exuma	Wendel McGregor	2	23/8 Divers 38/18 Divers	38	Peace & Plenty Out Island Inn	32 80	Exuma Divers Ltd. George Town Exuma, Bahamas	(809) 336-2030	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Island Marine Parrot Cay, Hope Town Abaco	Dave Gale	2	25/8 Divers 20/6 Divers	30	Abaco Inn	10	Island Marine Parrot Cay Abaco, Bahamas	(809) 367-2822	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Jack Tar Village West End Grand Bahama Island	Nigel Froome	1	28/14 Divers	20	Jack Tar Village	537	Jack Tar Village 158 Port Rd. W. Palm Beach, FL 33404	(800) 527-9298† (809) 346-6211 (305) 848-3478	Tourist Diving & Snorkeling
Nassau Dive Supply Nassau New Providence Island	Frances Young	6	23/8 Divers	40	Pilot House Hotel	125	Nassau Dive Supply P.O. Box N-1658 Nassau, Bahamas	(809) 322-4869	Full Service Dive Shop
Pittstown Point Landings Crooked Island	Clinton Scavella	1	19/5 Divers 18/4 Divers 16/3 Divers	15	Pittstown Point Inn	12	Bahamas Caribbean Int'l. P.O. Box 9831 Mobile, AL 36691	(205) 666-4482	Limited Diving for hotel guests only
Romora Bay Club Harbour Island North Eleuthera	Roy Schmidt	3	25/10 Divers 31/20 Divers	40	Romora Bay Club	32	Romora Bay Club P.O. Box 2617 Stuart, FL 33495	(800) 327-8286† (305) 287-8293 (collect)	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Rum Cay Club Rum Cay	Jerry Bradley	3	34/20 Divers 34/20 Divers	200	Rum Cay Club	17	Rum Cay Club P.O. Box 22396 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335	(305) 467-8355 (collect)	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Small Hope Bay Lodge Andros Town Andros	The Birches	6	34/24 Divers 31/15 Divers 28/15 Divers	60	Small Hope Bay Lodge	20	Small Hope Bay Lodge P.O. Box N-1131 Nassau, Bahamas	(800) 223-6961† (305) 463-9130 (809) 328-2014	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Smuggler's Rest Coral Harbour New Providence Island	Ray & Lyn Post	2	35/18 Divers 28/12 Divers 19/4 Divers	54	Smuggler's Rest	7	Smuggler's Rest Box N-8050 Nassau, Bahamas	(800) 328-8029 (303) 694-0159 (809) 326-1143	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
South Ocean Divers Lyford Cay New Providence Island	Rudy Turnquest	3	44/25 Divers	54	So. Ocean Beach Hotel	120	South Ocean Divers P.O. Box N-8191 Nassau, Bahamas	(809) 326-4397	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Spanish Wells Resorts Spanish Wells North Eleuthera	Lill Campbell	3	34/18 Divers 34/18 Divers 22/ 6 Divers 23/ 6 Divers	120	Spanish Wells Beach Resort Spanish Wells Harbour Club	29 21	Winn Chesley 4316 W. Broward Blvd. Plantation, FL 33317	(800) 327-5118† (800) 432-1362 FL (305) 791-5118	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Stella Maris Inn Stella Maris Long Island	Jorg Friese Peter Kuska	4	32/15 Divers 28/10 Divers 65/30 Divers	100	Stella Maris Inn	42	Stella Maris Inn P.O. Box 105 Long Island, Bahamas	(800) 327-0787† (305) 467-0466 (809) 336-2106	Full Service Dive Resort Hotel
Sun Divers Ltd. Nassau New Providence Island	Lambert Albury	4	25/16 Divers 28/19 Divers	35	Sheraton British Colonial	325	Sun Divers Ltd. P.O. Box N-10728 Nassau, Bahamas	(809) 322-3301 (809) 325-7788	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Treasure Cay Diving Ctr. Treasure Cay Abaco	Joel Pratt	2	30/18 Divers	55	Treasure Cay Hotel	122	Treasure Cay Services 2301 S. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316	(305) 525-7711 (809) 367-2570 (800) 327-1584†	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Underwater Explorers Society Freeport Grand Bahama Island	John Englander	10	42/24 Divers 30/12 Divers 40/28 Divers	130	Lucayan Bay Hotel Channel House Resort Holiday Inn Atlantik Beach Hotel	165 490 175	Underwater Explorers Society P.O. Box F-2433 Freeport, Bahamas	(809) 373-1244	Independent Dive Operator Facility
Valentine's Dive Center Harbour Island North Eleuthera	Ron Lipman	3	20/6 Divers 36/20 Divers 30/15 Divers	90	Valentine's Yacht Club	21	Valentine's Dive Center 3928 Shelbyville Rd. Louisville, KY 40207	(809) 333-2142 (502) 897-6481	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Walker's Cay Dive Shop Walker's Cay Abaco	Sue Graves	3	36/24 Divers 22/6 Divers	60	Walker's Cay Hotel	62	Walker's Cay Hotel 700 S.W. 34th Street Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315	(800) 327-3714† (305) 522-1469	Combination Tourist & Experi- enced Diving Svcs.
Winding Bay Dive Center Rock Sound Eleuthera	NA	2	28/10 Divers	15	Winding Bay Beach Resort	36	Winding Bay Beach Resort P.O. Box 93, Rock Sound Eleuthera, Bahamas	(809) 334-2020	Tourist Diving & Snorkeling

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cent 142 mile long barrier reef which stretches along the length of the island. Servicing this largely untapped marine resource are two distinctly different, but equally appealing dive resorts, SMALL HOPE BAY and ANDROS UNDERSEA ADVENTURES at the Andros Beach Hotel. Small Hope Bay is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. It is the oldest single management dive operation in the Bahamas. Featuring 20 cottages with a main lounge/living room/dining room, Small Hope Bay is a cordial, intimate resort with hosts Rosie and Dick Birch and family creating a friendly, personal atmosphere. Apparently this is the atmosphere many vacationers are seeking because over 70 percent of their traffic is either repeat customers or word-of-mouth referrals. There is lots of sandy beach, flattop dive boats, boardsailers, Sunfish sailboats, a hot tub, self-service bar, superior food, a dive center complete with compressor and back-ups and a full complement of rental equipment. Nestled among pine trees with the ocean for a front yard, Small Hope Bay is both unique and appealing.

The Andros Beach Hotel has been recently acquired and renovated by Neal Watson and represents an excitingly viable new dive destination for the serious traveling diver. In a career highlighted by record-setting personal diving achievements and consistent business growth, Neal has come to recognize what makes a dive resort successful. He intends to incorporate this vision into the Andros Beach Hotel. On four acres of landscaped ground with 400 feet of ocean beachfront, the hotel is a beautiful brick structure. There are only 10 rooms with double beds and three cottages with two double beds and several villas available additionally, so this can hardly qualify as diving by the numbers. There is a main dining hall and lounge with Neal's brother Carl overseeing the food (very good food by the way), beverages and hotel operation. The swimming pool overlooks the ocean and is useful for relaxation or scuba instruction. There is a separate dive facility and docks nearby, for this resort is very definitely targeted for the diver. Neal has provided two diesel V-hull dive boats, a Zodiac chase boat and more than enough rental gear and air storage to accommodate a house full of divers. In some respects the dive facilities are excessive for a hotel property of this size, but better too much than too little in terms of services.

Because Small Hope Bay and Andros Beach Hotel are so far from each other there is no overlap in the dive sites. But even if there were, the potential in Andros is so awesome that these two operations could explore but a fraction. A quick Andros sampler might include: **Black Coral Canyon** with sand ravines 6-12 feet wide separating dense, high profile corals undercut and decorated by black coral; the wreck of the **Potamac**, run aground in 1952 and split into two sections 200 yards apart with both sections exposed at low tide and featuring large boilers, an abundance of nurse sharks, parrotfish, brown chromis, tropicals and a resident green moray eel; the **Crater**, an ocean blue hole with caverns running off the side; the **Barge Wreck**, a sunken WW II Navy landing craft sitting upright in 70 feet of water and inhabited by grouper, yellowtail and two hand-fed green morays; and a drop-off named **Over the Wall** where the vertical wall face begins at 70 feet and drops away to 6,000 feet. More than most other destinations throughout the Caribbean, Andros diving is still being discovered and the sense of adventure is high.

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lands. Much of the area is undeveloped, but in the midst of this uncharted diving is a pocket of civilization and diving expertise known as CHUB CAY. A self-sufficient resort facility with its own power, its own water desalination plant and a large marina dedicated to both sportfishing and sport diving, Chub Cay has operated for 25 years as a private club. Now, however, the resort facilities are open to both members and non-members. These include (for the public) 15 double occupancy hotel rooms; a roomy 34 by 16 foot wide flattop dive boat powered by twin 85 hp outboards; a swimming pool; a photo center with classroom and automatic E-6 processing; camera rentals; and a complete selection of rental gear. The dive operation is run by Jerry and Jane Barnes and features two tanks in the morning and one tank for the afternoon session. Chub Cay is oriented to the U/W photographer. It hosted both the Paul Tzimoulis School of Underwater Photography and Gale Livers' U/W photo programs last year, providing consistently fine diving during these sessions. There is an unusual fish feeding reef called **Oasis** where not only do four or five species of grouper, yellowtail, Bermuda chub and angelfish congregate, but there is a small nurse shark which can be hand fed. **Chub Point Reef** lies in 60 to 80 feet of water and is notable for the eagle rays almost always sighted and the mass of black coral. The **Chub Cay Wall** begins at 80 feet and drops to 110 feet. It is undercut and adorned with black coral and populated by large crustaceans and visited by a wide range of pelagics. **Mama Rhoda Rock** features excellent snorkeling and good diving as well with elkhorn, staghorn and schools of small tropicals.

NEW PROVIDENCE

On the island of New Providence, Nassau is both the capital and largest city of the Bahamas. It is a collection of luxurious high rise resort hotels, superior duty-free shopping, an interesting straw market, the seat of government and rich historical flavor. There are casinos, golf courses, numerous tennis courts, fine dining and of course good diving. Diving on the north side of the island is served primarily by the dive operations in the Nassau area such as BAHAMA DIVERS LTD., NASSAU DIVE SUPPLY/DIVER'S HAVEN and SUN DIVERS LTD. CORAL HARBOUR DIVERS is at Lyford Cay and has relatively easy access to either the north or south sides. The operations diving primarily along the south coast of New Providence include SOUTH OCEAN BEACH and SMUGGLER'S REST. South Ocean Beach features other special

amenities besides diving, such as golf and tennis, in a lush, comfortable 120 room resort. The dive operators in the Nassau area may also run around to the south when weather conditions are advantageous, but there is good diving to be found along both the south and north coast. **Rose Island** is popular among snorkelers and beginning scuba divers, as is **Green Cay Reef** with its lovely elkhorn and staghorn formations. The **Mahoney Wreck** sits in 30 feet of water and has attracted considerable fish populations, yet the **Deep Mahoney** in 60 feet of water features even better fish activity.

The quality of diving off New Providence is often underrated and while I saw only a small portion of the dive sites available, some of those I did experience were quite impressive. I dove primarily along the south side and my favorites were **Honeycomb Wall**, which starts dropping vertically at 35 feet with a generous sprinkling of caverns and even a swim-through tunnel from 80 feet back to 35 feet; the **Tears of Allah**, the upright wreck sunk intentionally in 45 feet of water as a prop for the James Bond movie *Never Say Never Again* and again used for the Brooke Shields television movie *Wet Gold*; **Goulding Reef** (also known as James Bond Reef owing to film production shot there) with acres of magnificent elkhorn coral and superior snorkeling; and what I came to call **Horse-Eye Pier**, an offshore boat pier sitting in 45 feet of water with pilings encrusted with sponges and an ecosystem comprised of horse-eye jacks, octopus, needlefish, bluerunners, jewfish, grouper, angelfish, jawfish, eels and lots of macro subjects. To adequately cover the fine operations and the tremendous variety of diving obtainable from New Providence is not possible in this short space. Those of you who see New Providence as just Nassau, and Nassau as just casinos and highrise hotels, are missing a whole world!

ELEUTHERA

In the central Bahamas, 40 miles east of Nassau, Eleuthera is an elbow shaped island more than 100 miles long. At the southern end of Eleuthera is the Rock Sound settlement and the WINDING BAY RESORT. On the Atlantic side of the island, Winding Bay features tennis, sailing, fishing and of course, diving. Most of the dive sites are in shallow to medium depths and include **Beginner's Reef** for snorkelers in 2 to 15 feet of water; **Horseshoe Cave**, a 120 foot long coral tunnel winding through the reef in a horseshoe configuration; and **Ocean Ledge**, one of the deeper dive sites with coral ledges and good fish populations in 70 to 90 feet of water. At the northern end of the island are clustered smaller islands including Spanish Wells and Harbour Island, areas rich in quality dive sites.

After landing at Eleuthera, a taxi will take you to one of two water taxi docks,

one of which will go to Spanish Wells and the other to Harbour Island for guests of either the Romora Bay Club or Valentine's Dive Resorts. Both Spanish Wells and Harbour Island are exceptionally scenic, with immaculately clean, tree lined streets, homes sparkling with fresh pink, yellow or turquoise paint, picket fences, motor bikes and the ubiquitous satellite dish. The natives are especially friendly and the welcome extended to dive tourists is sincere. Spanish Wells, Valentine's and the Romora Bay Club each offer quality accommodations and excellent diving, however, subtle differences create a different market for each.

Spanish Wells features two separate hotel units, each under the same administration. SPANISH WELLS BEACH RESORT features seven cottages and 22 hotel rooms, a restaurant, lounge, dive shop, E-6 processing lab and meeting room, all adjacent to a magnificent white powder beach lined with casuarina pine trees. The HARBOUR CLUB offers four one bedroom apartments, 13 hotel rooms, one restaurant and two bars. It is just across the street from the dive boat dock, so the boats are equally accessible, whether by bus ride from the Beach Resort or by foot from the Harbour Club. The bulk of the clientele for both resorts is scuba divers, although there are honeymooners and general vacationers among the visitors. Manager Lil Campbell and assistant manager Grover Moberly are both very experienced in catering to the needs of divers and with the help of a very competent dive staff, have created a convenient diver environment.

The boats are two 34 foot flattops powered by twin 150 hp outboards, as well as a 22 foot Aquasport for small groups and a 28 foot Bertram for both diving and sportfishing. The diving occurs on both the windward and leeward sides of the island. The windward sites (those closest to the dive resort) are dived primarily in the summer and fall, leeward sites are dived the year-round. Among the many and diverse sites on the Spanish Wells itinerary is the **Train Wreck**, a stolen train that was being transported by the Confederates during the Civil War to be sold to Cuba. Only a ten minute boat ride from the resort, the Train Wreck consists mostly of wheels and rubble, but is used as a fish feeding station with grouper, blue tang, triggerfish and angelfish being handfed by divemasters and guests. **Bridge Point** ranges from 50 to 110 feet and falls at a steep angle to a sand bottom with isolated coral heads. Larger pelagics, jewfish, grouper, eagle rays and an occasional lemon shark are sighted among the tube sponges, gorgonians and seafans. **Meek's Patch** is a visually unimpressive collection of scattered coral heads in only 10 feet of water, but the marine life congregating around it makes it an exceptional dive. There are flying gurnards, pufferfish, octopus, lobster,

starfish, conch, juvenile and intermediate phase angelfish and great macro subjects. At least once a manta ray has been sighted. The **Current Cut** is justifiably famous. A tidal change brings currents of six to 10 knots between a narrow pass separating two islands. Divers drift through the cut at depths of 30 to 60 feet and experience visibility in the 30 to 80 foot range. Each pass takes about 10 minutes and the average dive session includes three passes. The incredibly diverse marine life typically spied in passing include eagle rays in formation, horse-eye jacks, angelfish, barracuda, shark, stingrays and giant grouper. The **Freighter Wreck** is a 260 foot Lebanese freighter run hard aground in only 25 feet of water. Three-fourths of the ship sits perfectly upright above the surface, but on the one-fourth beneath the waves there is remarkable macro photography, huge parrotfish, tuna, spotted morays, green morays, hundreds of yellow stingrays, nudibranchs of several varieties and large French and gray angelfish. There are many other sites visited regularly by Spanish Wells. Some of them will be visited by both Valentine's and the Romora Bay Club as well.

VALENTINE'S YACHT CLUB AND INN is comprised of 22 double occupancy hotel rooms with tennis courts, a swimming pool, boardsailers, day sailing and Hobie Cats. A 36 foot Thompson trawler, capa-

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GEOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO DIVE OPERATIONS

ISLAND	DIVE OPERATION
ABACO	
Hopetown	Elbow Cay Club
Hopetown	Island Marine
Treasure Cay	Treasure Cay Dive Center
Marsh Harbour	Dive Abaco
Walker's Cay	Walker's Cay Dive Shop
ANDROS	
Fresh Creek	Small Hope Bay Lodge
Nicholl's Town	Andros Undersea Adventures
BERRY ISLANDS	
Chub Cay	Chub Cay Club
BIMINI	
North Bimini	Bimini Undersea Adventures
CROOKED ISLAND	
Crooked Island	Pittstown Point Landing
ELEUTHERA	
Harbour Island	Romora Bay Club
Harbour Island	Valentine's Dive Center
Rock Sound	Winding Bay Dive Center
Spanish Wells	Spanish Wells Resorts
EXUMA	
George Town	Exuma Divers
George Town	Exuma Aquatics
NEW PROVIDENCE	
Nassau	Bahama Divers
Nassau	Coral Harbour Divers
Nassau	Nassau Dive Supply
Lyford Cay	South Ocean Beach
Coral Harbour	Smuggler's Rest
Nassau	Sun Divers Limited
GRAND BAHAMA	
Freeport	Underwater Explorers Society
West End	Jack Tar Village
East End	Deep Water Cay Club
LONG ISLAND	
Stella Maris	Stella Maris Inn
RUM CAY	
Rum Cay	Rum Cay Club

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The reef, scuba divers and underwater photographers seek out, is Shark Reef, Stella Maris Inn's most famous dive. One of them took the photo for this ad!

We also offer a wide range of non-shark dives, along the leeward and Atlantic coast; in fact, perfectly easy photo dives are made at hundreds of shallow/medium deep coral heads and reefs, mild drop-offs and breathtaking walls!

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BAHAMAS

ble of handling 20 divers, serves as the dive boat. Even though the boat will accommodate larger groups, the average charter will include six to 12 divers. Smaller groups can also be accommodated on either the 22 foot Aquasport or the 20 foot Robalo. There is a large dive shop on the premises.

Just down the road, and also on Har-

bour Island, is the exquisitely landscaped resort known as the ROMORA BAY CLUB. Specializing in individuals and small groups, Romora Bay offers a hotel capacity of 60 with 29 double occupancy rooms and cottages, some with Murphy beds. The dive service is also targeted to the small, personalized group with rarely more than ten divers per boat. The boats include two 30 foot diesel Island Hoppers and one gasoline powered Delta. Dive operations manager Jeff Fox reports that the dive sites are generally selected by individual interest and consensus and a heavy emphasis is placed on providing services for the underwater photographer. Harbour Island is quaint and picturesque. Both Valentine's and Romora Bay feature excellent food, cozy accommodations in a romantic setting and quality dive services targeted to small groups. Among favorite dive sites are: **The Arch**, a large coral arch rising from 110 feet with schools of jack and chromis, encrusting and tube sponges and frequent sightings of eagle rays; **The Plateau**, in 45 to 90 feet of water on the Atlantic side of the island and featuring sharp coral grooves channeling into a fish bowl with lots of hand-feeding activity; **Sea Gardens** in 10 to 35 feet with excellent coral formations but most notable for the giant fish, lobster and eel congregations; and the wreck of the **Carnarvon**, a 190 foot steel freighter sitting in only 10 to 35 feet of water with the stern mostly intact, the propellers visible and two anchors serving as fascinating photographic props.

EXUMA

To the southeast of Nassau in the southern Bahamas, the Exumas consist of a 90 mile string of small islands and cays. George Town is the largest settlement and features an international airport, a natural harbor and five hotels. EXUMA DIVING COMPANY is owned and operated by Bahamian Wendel McGregor and is available for dive charters from a base in the Peace and Plenty Hotel. EXUMA AQUATICS LTD. is a fine dive operation serving the Out Island Inn and the Pieces of Eight Hotel, staffed by an especially qualified and experienced crew including Al Zamrok and Don Morrison. The Pieces of Eight is a 32 unit complex built on a hillside overlooking Elizabeth Harbour and features carefully landscaped and tended grounds, a swimming pool and excellent dining in the adjacent restaurant. The 88 room Out Island Inn sits on a magnificent strand of white sand beach with tall coconut palms, thatched cabanas and a complete watersports concession adorning the waterfront. Hotelier Ken Bowe is justifiably proud of the accommodations and cuisine offered at both hotels and the two flattop dive platforms will quickly take divers to some quite interesting locations.

Most of the dive sites are within a 25 to 45 minute boat ride, although there is ex-

cellent snorkeling just off the beach. Many of the dives are still being discovered and logged, but there is a lot of coral and fish life among the shallow to medium depth reefs at 25 to 60 feet. A few of the many coral reefs visited regularly include: **Stingray Reef**, a large coral conglomerate in a cut between two islands, known for the tremendous fish populations; **Conch Cay Gardens**, high profile coral heads rising from the sand floor at 40 feet to within 15 feet of the surface with beautiful stands of elkhorn coral alternating with brain and star corals; and **Lobster Reef**, a medium depth series of coral ridges populated by schooling snapper and grunts, barrel sponges and an abundance of gorgonians. In addition there are a number of ocean blue holes that are dived with some regularity. **Mystery Cave** consists of a huge cave opening narrowing somewhat to a horizontal tunnel over 400 feet long running beneath Stocking Island. Other favorite blue holes include **Angelfish Blue Hole**, named for the numerous angelfish frequently seen near the opening and **Hurricane Blue Hole**.

LONG ISLAND

Long Island is rather large, some 90 miles in length and approximately 400 square miles. There are no large centers of commerce, although there are several small settlements and for divers there is the STELLA MARIS INN. There is a 4,250 foot runway for both commercial and private aircraft and a variety of accommodations available. The basic accommodation is in one of 32 single or double occupancy rooms, each featuring private bath, veranda and air conditioning. In addition, there are 15 apartments, some with and some without kitchens and 16 two or three bedroom villas scattered throughout the garden estate. The beaches are easily within walking distance and the marina is accessible via the courtesy bus. Owned and operated by three amiable Germans, Jorg Friese, Peter Kuska and Gerd Fuhrman, Stella Maris enjoys a loyal following from both Europe and America.

A large dive center at the marine complex features three dive boats, three compressors, 250 scuba tanks and a substantial inventory of rental equipment. Among the more than 35 charted dive sites at Stella Maris are: **Shark Reef**, where divemasters use speared fish as bait to lure reef sharks in close enough to photograph; **Barracuda Heads**, with predictable schools of horse-eye jacks cruising among high profile coral heads rising from the sand bottom at 40 feet and also populated by grunt, snapper, goatfish, grouper, angelfish and hogfish; **Grouper Valley**, with depths dropping to 80 feet with rocky formations and lots of fish activity; **Coral Gardens**, with the sand bottom at 30 feet and large coral formations within five feet of the surface

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making this reef as beautiful to snorkelers as it is to divers; and the **North Wall**, a deep, vertical drop-off with massive purple tube sponges and large cruising pelagics. The diving at Stella Maris is available both on the windward and leeward sides of the island, so few days should be lost to inclement weather.

RUM CAY

Rum Cay, with its fine resort operation, the RUM CAY CLUB, lies 375 miles to the southeast of Ft. Lauderdale. The resort includes three beachfront guest lodgings with four double occupancy rooms in each structure, plus two cottages, for a total of 14 rooms. There is a cozy, centrally located bar overlooking the Atlantic Ocean with television and video cassettes, a lending library, video games, a boutique, comfortable chairs and tables. The enlarged sun deck outside the clubhouse includes a hot tub situated ideally for viewing the sunset, all of which was built in 1982. The dining room and kitchen is in another nearby building and there is also a deluxe dive center with rental scuba gear, audio visual equipment, classroom with workbenches, camera rentals and a complete photo lab with automatic E-6 processor. The theme throughout the resort reflects an interest in underwater photography with marine life photos adorning the walls and slide

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Bottom Time Adventures

Captain A.J. Bland
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(305) 524-8352

Sea Dragon

Captain Dan Doyle
2200 S. Andrews Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

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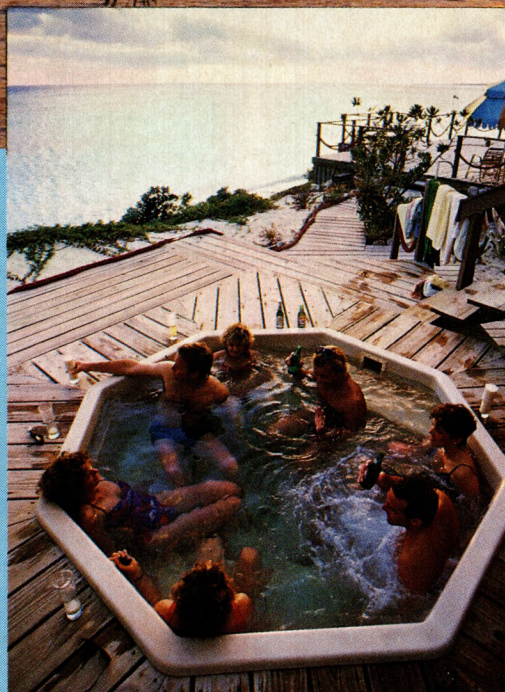
Harbour Island locals



UNEXSO training tank, Freeport



Yellow coney, Rum Cay



Top: Sunset on Andros. Above: Visitors to Rum Cay enjoy a beautiful sunset while in the hot tub.

BAHAMAS

viewing boxes and loupes available in each guest room.

Rum Cay Club owner David Melville stresses the resort has found a niche among a discerning clientele and is seeking to maintain the same level of service that has brought so many divers to visit in the past. The means to that end includes good dive boats, two 34 foot out-board powered flattops and a talented and personable dive/photo staff comprised of Alex Kirkbride and Jeff Wight. Most of the diving is in the lee during winter and since summers are generally mild, the best of Rum Cay diving is accessible year-round. Since only Rum Cay Club is within reasonable boat range of the dive sites, there is no competition for the best spots. Mooring buoys (more than 30 of them) prevent anchor damage to these virgin reefs.

A general representation of the favorite dive sites at Rum Cay would include vertical walls, beautiful shallow reefs, fish feeding stations with politely familiar grouper, coral caves, pinnacles and visibility generally in excess of 100 feet. One of our favorites following our visit to Rum Cay was **Snowfields**. Just 100 yards off the west side of the island, but a 45 minute boat ride, Snowfields features a snowy white sand bottom with basket sponges and small coral heads inhabited by all manner of invertebrate life in 20 to 40 feet of water. **Menagerie Reef** is comprised mostly of staghorn and elkhorn coral in 15 to 25 feet, but there are gorgonians, pillar coral and large schools of grunt, brown chromis and blue runner. There is an especially cooperative and photogenic yellow coney at this site. When divemasters feed the fish, several species of coney compete with sand tilefish for the offering. **Jewfish Wall** is one of several extraordinary wall dives with the drop-off beginning at 70 feet, sponge encrusted tunnels and a beautiful cluster of purple tube sponges. There are several fish feeding stations established by the divemasters such as **Grand Canyon**, **Martini's Reef**, **Majestic Reef** and **Fish Factory**; and in each case Nassau groupers eagerly flock to the divers as soon as they splash into the water. The photographic potential is excellent for Rum Cay and a seven day package would not begin to exhaust the variety of diving.

CROOKED ISLAND

Just 100 miles south of San Salvador lies Crooked Island, among the more remote of the Bahamas Islands. Over 430 miles from Ft. Lauderdale, Crooked Island does not have a commercial aircraft runway, but there is a 2,300 foot grass

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runway capable of accommodating small private airplanes. PITTSTOWN POINT LANDINGS is a small, 12 room beach hotel with a dining room and lounge catering to select clientele. There are no tennis courts, no golf courses, no shopping malls and no casinos, but there is a beautiful beach and ample opportunity to relax, snorkel offshore or dive from the 19 foot outboard skiffs that serve as the dive boats. Most sites are within five to ten minutes of the resort and are virgin.

LIVE-ABOARD DIVE BOATS

The Bahamas features one of the world's finest fleets of live-aboard dive boats operating from the Florida coast and Nassau. The advantages to a live-aboard cruise include more dives possible per day; greater accessibility to remote and possibly more exciting reefs; extended versatility in terms of reefs dived; and the convenience of having all dive and camera gear always at hand.

Among the live-aboard boats currently plying the Bahamas are the sailboats of Bruce Purdy's Blackbeard's Cruises; Captain Tom Guarino's 90 foot *Sea Fever*; the *Bottom Time* owned by A.J. Bland; Captain Frank's *Island Fantasy*; the *Sea Dragon*; the *Dragon Lady* and the *Sea Aggressor*. This is a top quality, multi-million dollar fleet. Each boat offers a slightly different itinerary and experience.

For example, the 65 foot *Morning Star*

and *Sea Explorer* of Blackbeard's fleet (to be joined by a third boat by late summer) are single masted, fiberglass hulled sloops equipped with auxiliary diesel. The charter operation is run by Bruce and Peggy Purdy out of Miami. Each ship has an eight person crew including captain, mate, cook and divemasters. The program includes a seven day, six night excursion, with five days devoted to diving. Trips are all inclusive (food, diving, liquor, etc.) and while the boat will accommodate 28 passengers, the cruise is limited to 22. The Berry Islands, Bimini, Freeport and West End Grand Bahama are typically included on the various itineraries. As might be expected from a sailboat, the pace is intended to be more relaxed, leisurely. There will be shore excursions for shelling during the surface interval. The *Sea Fever* features slightly shorter trips, generally five days, departing on Thursday and returning on Monday. Because the vessel can cruise at 20 knots the crossing from Miami Beach takes only three and one-half hours and there will be diving every day. Bimini, Cay Sal, the **Jolter Cays**, the Berry Islands and **Victory Reef** are some of the areas included in the various *Sea Fever* cruises. The vessel is completely renovated for diver convenience and features an aluminum hull, air conditioning, two generators, two compressors, 110 volt electricity, 2,000 gallon freshwater capacity, stereo and is first quality throughout. Captain Guarino has been operating Bahamas charters for 13 years and is skilled in both safe boating and in finding the best diving. The *Sea Fever* has a maximum capacity of 22 divers accommodated in three double

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cabins (two passengers each) or a four, five and six passenger cabin.

The *Bottom Time* is a 65 foot custom dive vessel departing Ft. Lauderdale and specializing in groups of from 12-17 divers with an emphasis on visiting some of the more remote cruising grounds. The Exumas and the Berry Islands are frequently visited, but the basic interest of the group will, to a great extent, determine the cruise. The vessel is equipped with six cabins; four have two double beds each, two have two single beds. It is air-conditioned throughout. There is a bar, stereo, videotape library and plenty of quality diving on each *Bottom Time* cruise. It is also possible to fly into Bimini, Freeport, Nassau or West End to join the *Bottom Time* for a more customized itinerary. The basic cruise is a five day, four night configuration, but Captain A.J. Bland emphasizes the custom aspect of the *Bottom Time* cruise; anything within reason is feasible.

The *Sea Dragon* is a 65 foot custom built dive boat offering unlimited diving and a cruising range with a Nassau point of departure. The Exuma Cays are included in the standard itineraries, but for specifics the stateside agents for this boat should be contacted.

There are two more vessels under construction that will likely be ready for Bahamas cruising by the time this article is published. The *Island Fantasy*, owned and operated by Captain Frank Hammett out of Palm Beach, promises to be a luxurious 90 foot, completely air-conditioned vessel able to accommodate 32 divers in eight, four passenger cabins.

The *Sea Aggressor* is a sister ship to the *Cayman Aggressor* already in operation on Grand Cayman. This 90 foot all aluminum vessel is equipped with twin compressors; on deck dive lockers; on deck head and freshwater showers; E-6 film lab; double berth staterooms or quad quarters with single berths; spacious main saloon; and full air-conditioning. See & Sea Travel Service will be the booking agent. According to president, Carl Roessler, the vessel will be based in West Palm Beach for the first year of operation and perhaps in the future will have the option of a George Town, Exuma base in order to gain access to Conception Island and other spectacularly remote dive areas.

Divers touring the Bahamas should be aware of the advantages relative to the Diving Passport program. First of all, possession of a Diving Passport is in no way essential to be allowed to dive in the Bahamas. Like any other dive destination the Bahamas require C-cards for divers. The Bahamas Diving Passport is more like the airlines frequent flyer discount with an awards program leading to free diving and air travel. It costs only \$3 to enroll in the program. You receive a Passport that is validated by dive operators to accrue the travel credits.

For more information about the Bahamas Diving Passport or further data regarding the exciting world of Bahamas diving, please contact the individual dive operation listed in our sidebar, the re-

sort's reservations agency or the Bahamas office of Sports Information at 255 Alhambra Circle, Suite 415, Coral Gables, Florida 33134 or phone (800) 32-SPORT or (305) 442-4867.

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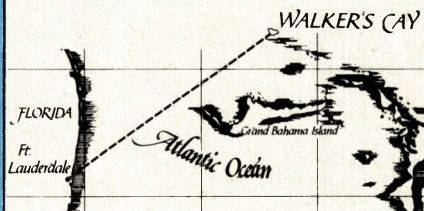


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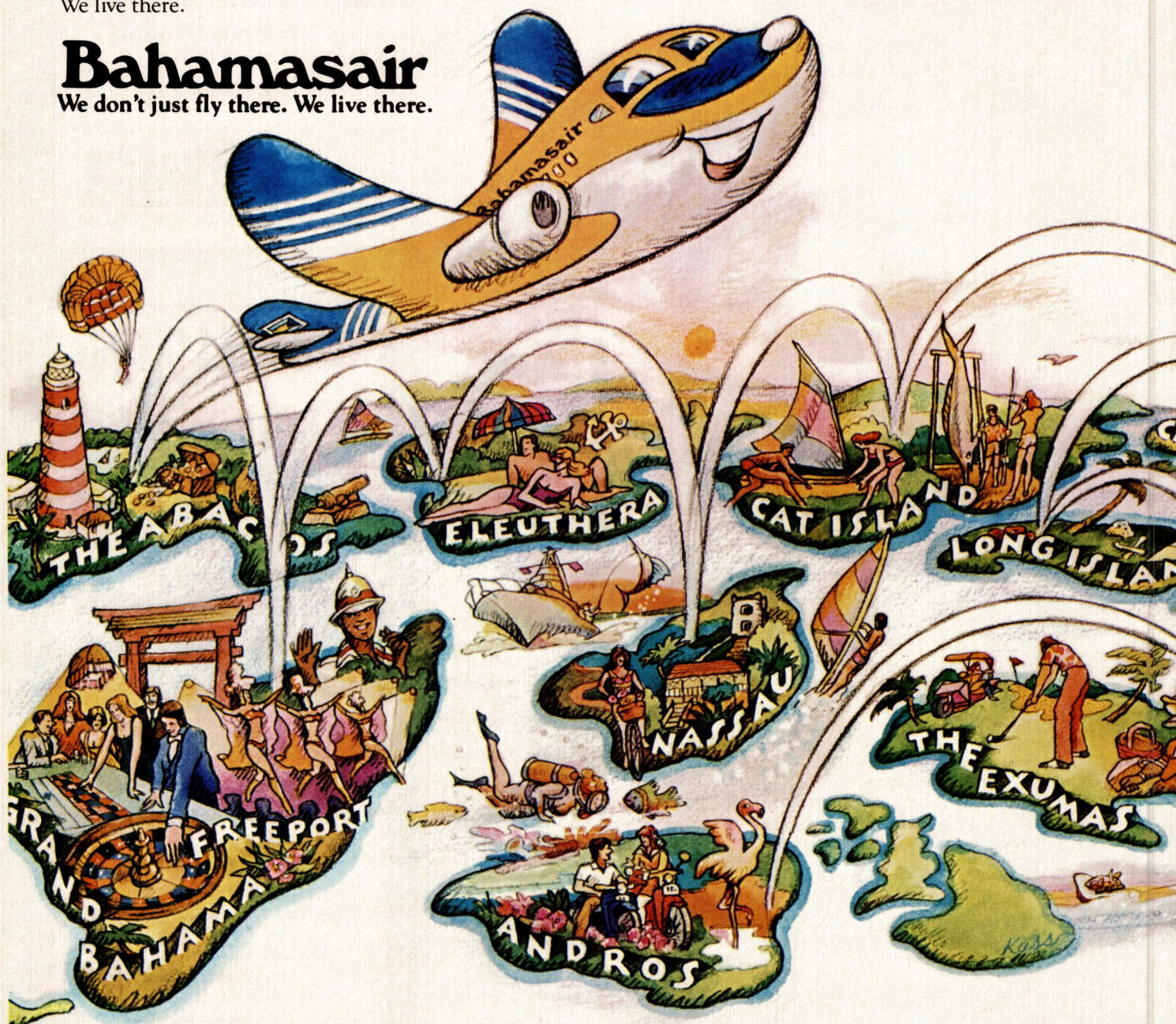
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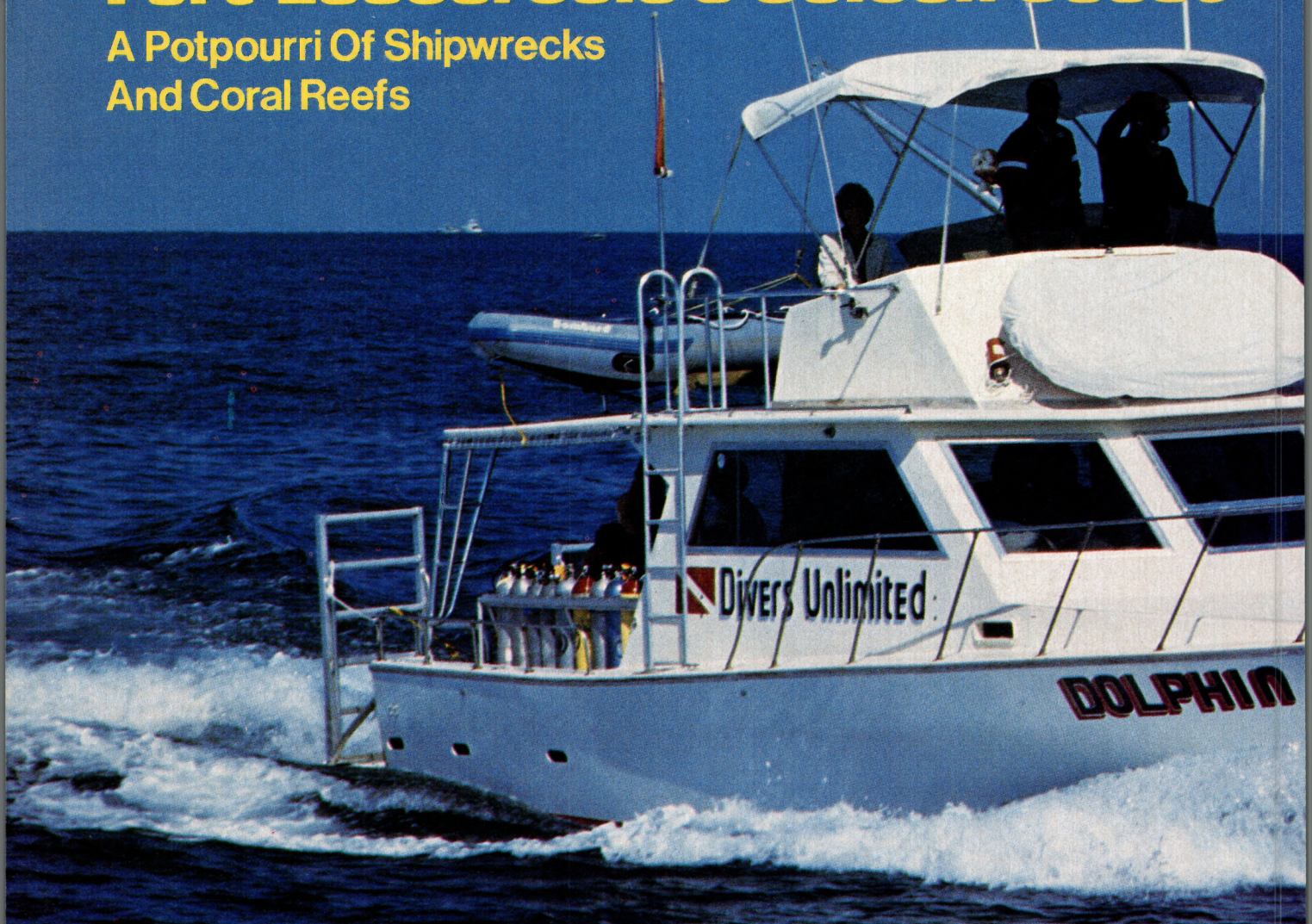
Fort Lauderdale

From Pompano Beach To Hollywood

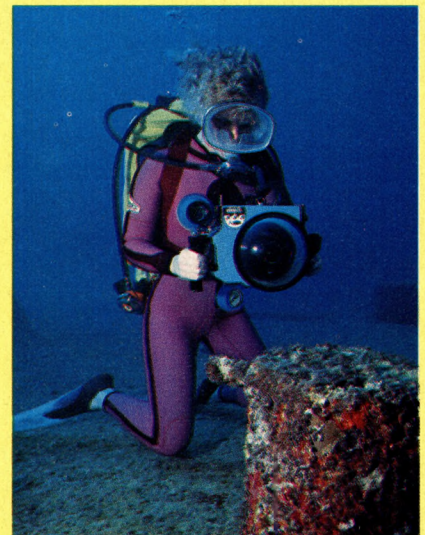


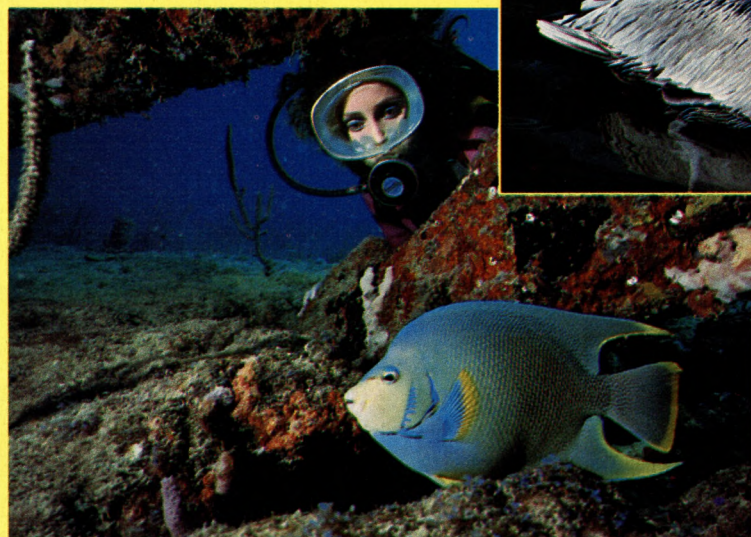
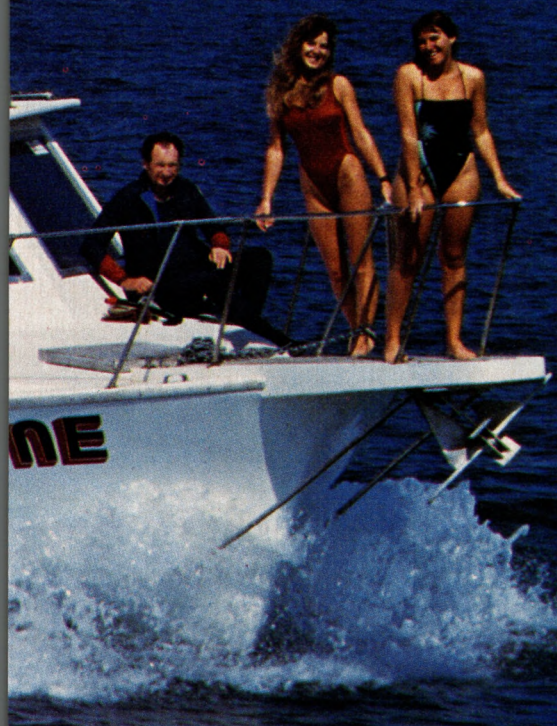
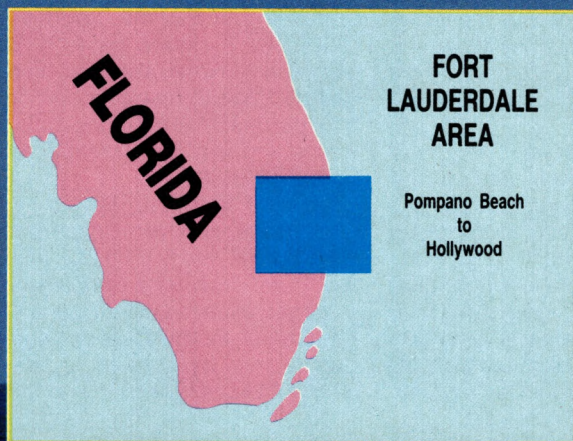
Fort Lauderdale's Golden Coast

A Potpourri Of Shipwrecks
And Coral Reefs



Above: Divers Unlimited's vessel, *Dolphin One*. Below left: Janice Lucas at Barracuda Reef. Below right: Kathryn Johnston on the Barge Wreck. Far right: A pelican at Coconuts Marina (above) and blue angelfish at the Freighter Anchor.





TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVE LUCAS

Three girls for every boy! California, Fort Lauderdale's Gold Coast may just be one up on you. Well, perhaps not three, but at a glance it seems that way. Unless of course you are a girl, then it could just as easily seem like three boys for every girl along this Atlantic Boulevard strand of beach called "the strip." This is where, at some time in their lives, almost everyone has wanted to come and play. One of the world's most popular and famous beaches, it has been immortalized by the songs and movies of spring break—and the party will likely go on forever.

On weekends, from the Bahia Mar Hotel-Marina complex and streaming well north of the Days Inn Hotel, you could easily believe you are a part of an impromptu circus parade. In the sky, brightly colored planes trail banners inviting you to party, dine or enter a bikini or belly flop contest at Shooters or the Caves or the City Limits or Summers.

Along the beachfront business district, where proper street dress is a bikini, hundreds of bicycles, some built for two, weave in and out of the slow moving traffic and become part of the circus procession. From one of the side streets, two dozen off-road pickups with enormous wheels and truck beds full of swim suited ladies may suddenly join the organized confusion. Along the sidewalks, merchants display fuchsia and chartreuse T-shirts with any number of outrageous slogans and mannequins by the hundreds model the latest, tiniest, most colorful beach wear to be found on the coast.

Across the street, spring break continues without regard to season. Thousands of sun seeking souls find their places on the golden brown sand everyday and liberally spread their coconut oils by the gallon.

Only a few blocks away, a very different Fort Lauderdale sports its own, more subdued, version of the marine parade. Mega-million dollar yachts and

homes line the Intracoastal Waterway near Port Everglades and Pier 66: Florida's version of Venice. It seems the only way to get around this city of luxury home-lined canals is on your Chris Craft or Morgan 51 Outisland. A full one-tenth of the city is lined by navigable waterways. Every 15 minutes a marine motorcade of sailboats, motor sailers, sport-fishermen and 150 foot yachts, complete with helipads, line up to wait for the 17th Street Causeway drawbridge to give them leave. From there they escape the

deepwater cruise ship port and flee into the indigo Atlantic to island hop the Bahamas or ply Florida's coastal waters.

Semitropical, Fort Lauderdale is perfectly located to offer a variety of pleasures for divers, sailors and watersport enthusiasts. An easy informality invades the atmosphere of even the high class hotels. In some, especially those along the beach, it is not uncommon to find the majority of guests wandering about in swim attire enjoying this year-round land of warm sun and sea.

Attractions are everywhere. Some as simple as

Fort Lauderdale

renting a beach buggy or moped are found all along the strip. Others such as jungle cruises, helicopter rides and bus tours can be found by simply asking at your hotel desk. The city and beachfront night life is a virtual kaleidoscope of colored light, after-dark pursuits.

Sightseeing can begin very close to any hotel. The river boats *Jungle Queen*, *Paddlewheel Queen* and *Hidden Harbor Showboat* leave regularly for trips up the New River or Intracoastal with live on-board entertainment and excellent meals. Waterway excursions can be taken aboard the *Miss Ocean World*, which leaves from the docks at its home amusement park. One of Fort Lauderdale's oldest and most popular attractions, Ocean World offers a full day of entertainment with dancing and leaping porpoises, sharks, alligators, sea lions, coral reef displays, birds and monkeys.

For the more daring, Six Flags Atlantis can send you plummeting down one of a half dozen giant water slides to crash into the waves of a manmade ocean. One even offers this wet, wild, careening excitement in total darkness! Or, you can drive an hour up I-95 and enter the veldts

of Africa at the 350 acre Lion Country Safari. There lions, giraffes, elephants, zebras and rhinos come within inches of your car—a bit of Africa transplanted into Florida. Bus tours to Key West and Walt Disney World/Epcot Center are also readily available.

Florida's natural sawgrass jungle is less than a half hour away and can be best experienced by flying through the swamp in a boat that is half airplane—an airboat. Driven by aircraft engines, their pilots show you alligators, vividly colored birds and Florida Indian villages in a very exciting fashion. The main portion of this protected jungle, the Everglades National Park, is less than two hours by automobile to the south, near Homestead.

Watersports are very much a part of Gold Coast life. Famous swimmers are forever remembered at the Swimming Hall of Fame between the Bahia Mar and Coconuts in Fort Lauderdale. Here Olympic and movie swimming stars of the past such as *Tarzan's* Johnny Weissmuller, Buster Crabbe (*Flash Gordon*) and Esther Williams are remembered among the swimmer's memorabilia. Modern day Olympic hopefuls and champions dive here regularly in both international and national preliminary competitions.

At nearby recreational establishments, participant watersports such as waterskiing, ocean sailing, jet skis, sailboarding

and parasailing are available in addition to some of the best nearshore diving and snorkeling in Florida. Sportfishing the Gulf Stream affords some of the best gamefish in North America: Blue marlin, sailfish, Spanish mackerel, tarpon, snook and pompano cruise just beneath the waves and wait to challenge you to the fight of your life.

For dry land sportsmen, Broward County has over two dozen public golf courses and nearly 40 public tennis facilities. If your idea of a sporting event has a wager attached, then the area offers parimutuel thoroughbred, harness and dog racing, as well as jai alai. Major league baseball teams come here every spring to train and top college and professional football teams compete in Miami's Orange Bowl, less than an hour to the south.

For after dark activities, Fort Lauderdale and neighboring cities Hollywood and Pompano, present a collage of high quality restaurants and shows. Top name stars such as Bob Hope, Sammy Davis Jr. and others appear regularly at hotels and several lounges along the coast. For dining, your taste in food can run the exotic gamut. You can choose from Japanese, Parisian, Greek, Bavarian, Thai, Cantonese, Italian, Polish, Tahitian or Siamese. Seafood is a main course at practically every restaurant in town. You can tempt yourself to try everything from crab to lobster to snapper to grouper; each cooked in one of several dozen different ways! After your meal, there are dozens of clubs along the strip and U.S. 1. Some have quiet corners, others Polynesian



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Fort Lauderdale

shows and still others wild rock bands with laser light shows to complete, or change, your current mood.

If your mood calls for simply getting in as many dives as possible and you want a variety of wrecks and reefs infested with lobster and covered with color, the Gold Coast may just become one of your favorite Florida dive areas.

In addition to the weekend dive skippers and a dozen top notch retail dive stores, there are three primary charter dive operators serving the Lauderdale, Hollywood, Pompano area: Divers Unlimited, Pro Dive and Scuba Rific 84. Divers Unlimited and Pro Dive are well established and have facilities near the Port Everglades inlet. Scuba Rific is a new Lauderdale based operation.

Divers Unlimited, the largest retail/diver training operation in the U.S., with its retail facility in Hollywood, bases its dive charter operation at the Days Inn Hotel on the beach. Operating three boats, *Diversions*, *Dolphin One* and the smaller, six passenger *Dolphin Two*, they run daily two tank scheduled charters.

Pro Dive has two waterfront, full service bases of operation, one at the Bahia Mar Yachting Center on Fort Lauderdale Beach and the other near the lighthouse inlet in Pompano Beach. Their boats, *Pro Diver* and *Experience*, also run daily two dive schedules. Either operation makes it easy to get aboard a Gold Coast charter.

Scuba Rific 84 is at the Marina Bay Club off State Road 84. The operation has a new, custom built, flattop catamaran similar to those used at many Caribbean dive resorts. With a full service dive operation at the hotel, they are just gearing up for their first year on the coast.

Broward County's reefs run very near

to shore forming three distinct ridges. Their closeness makes dock to reef runs relatively short. The first reef line is perfect for snorkeling, in places coming only a few hundred yards from the beach. Primarily formed by a low ridge of small corals and sponges in 10 to 15 foot depths, depending on wave conditions, its visibilities can run from a few feet to 50 or more. Small tropicals skitter everywhere, making these fun dive sites that often can be reached from shore.

The second reef is by far the most popular of the three. In 15 to 40 feet, at places it is alive with larger tropicals and game fish. The ledges form undercuts that rise abruptly from the ocean floor to form hiding places for fish and lobster. Visibilities average 30 feet to over 100, depending on wind and season. Although winter is generally windier and water temperatures much cooler than summer, some of the best visibilities often occur during these months.

The third reef runs in depths from 60 to over 100 feet. It is overgrown with delicate, blood red and midnight purple deepwater gorgonians. Its ledges are home to the larger fish that come in from the Gulf Stream. Schools of barracuda, amberjack and pompano can be seen cruising these deeper rifts, especially near the wrecks.

Two of the most popular and frequently dived reefs, **Barracuda** and **Hammerhead**, are south of the Port Everglades inlet. Popular owing to their location directly off the beach of John U. Lloyd State Park at Dania, both have excellent coral populations. The shallower Barracuda comes to within 20 feet of the surface, suddenly dropping on the inshore side to create a three to four foot high wall. Brain, staghorn, star and beautiful pillar corals decorate its face. The ledge top is a patchwork of seafans waving above tiny coralline tunnels that provide hiding places for morays and lobsters.

The deeper Hammerhead's coral fingers run seaward, forming faces similar to those on the shallow inshore ridges. The tops are overgrown with enormous lacy fans and large sponges. In 60 to 80 foot depths, its ridges rise four to six feet from the wide sand channels and provide

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WRECK INFORMATION

For more detailed information about the Gold Coast's wrecks, contact the: Marine Archaeological Advisory Council, Broward County Historical Commission, 100 B SE New River Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301; (305) 765-5872.

To receive the biannual Historical Journal containing local wreck information, send a check for \$4.20 payable to Broward County Historical Commission—same address.

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8280 State Road 84
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324
(305) 473-9455

Diver's Haven
1530 Cordova Road
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(305) 524-2112

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(305) 524-4862; (305) 462-5555
(305) 981-0156

Diving Specialties, Inc.
2139 Sterling Road
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(305) 966-9988

Force E
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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311
(305) 735-6227

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1334 SE 17th St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316
(305) 467-2822

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Scuba Divers, Inc.
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Pompano Scuba Academy
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hiding places for large gray and blue angels as well as feeding grounds for the deepwater schooling fishes.

Many of the Gold Coast's reef faces do not have generally accepted names. One captain may refer to a site by one name while another may call it something different. Regardless of what they are called, many offer very interesting dives.

The one south of the Howard Johnson's on Fort Lauderdale Beach, sometimes called **Lobster Ledge**, is very pop-

ular among aquatic hunters. Numerous spiny lobster congregate beneath the overhang and in the holes on top of the shallow reef. Many are "shorts" and unless you are skilled in their capture and have a measuring device in your possession it is only good conservation to leave them where you find them. Bagging shorts can also bag you a hefty fine.

An occasional wary black grouper may also slip into view, but only the quickest triggers and sharpest eyes will take them home. Hunted regularly, they have become very spear shy and grow large only by remaining very smart.

A few yards to the northeast is one of the most photogenic sites on the Gold

Coast. Too compact to entertain large groups for long, it is often passed over by captains with large boat loads of divers. Sitting on top of a flat, almost barren coral plateau is the enormous, lost, 10,000 pound **Freighter Anchor**. In less than 30 feet of water, its 200 foot long, mammoth chain runs across the reef to the north. The gigantic photo prop is totally encrusted with corals and colorful sponges. Beneath its shank three large, beautiful blue angels have taken up residence. One is nearly 18 inches long and the others are more than a foot long. They show little shyness to divers and sometimes pose directly in front of your camera lens. A small puffer makes the chain links its home, while off to the side a pair of docile gray angels constantly cruises in and out of sight.

Another popular reef, **Fishers Pedestal**, is close by. Two large coral mounds sit alone in the sand. One has a long protruding overhang beneath which large barracuda frequently wait to be inspected at the local cleaning station. Tiny blue gobies swim into gills and out their mouths searching for parasites. On the other mound, staghorn corals grow profusely and are frequently invaded by marauding hordes of tiny yellow wrasses. Strange, balled yellow sponges grow on the sides of the mound, looking as if they were molded out of melted candlewax.

Further north, at Pompano, the reefs take on a very dramatic appearance and offer some of the most exciting dives on the Gold Coast. In deeper waters, they sometimes jump 15 or more feet off the

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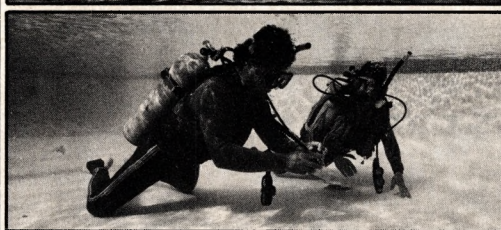
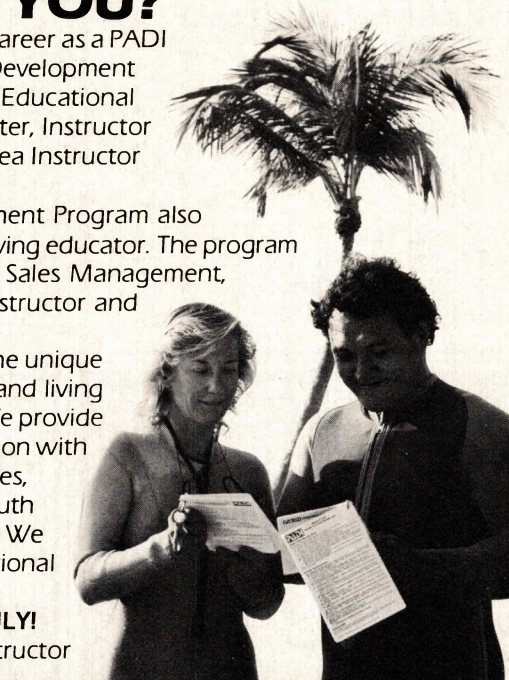
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on the Gold Coast write or call:

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For information about the Greater Fort Lauderdale Shipwreck Symposium write:

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sand, forming mini-walls on which cling tightly fused corals and sponges. The 60 to 80 foot depths are close to the Gulf Stream and the water is frequently the clearest in the area. Large schools of pelagics sometimes come in close, as do turtles and other exotic marine animals. On occasion herds of migrating pilot whales and mantas have been seen.

Wrecks are also popular diving attractions along the Gold Coast. Members of the Broward County Historical Commission's Marine Archaeological Advisory Council have researched a substantial list of wrecks in these waters. Some are diveable, others well beyond safe diving limits. Some are known to contain treasure and may actually include one of the lost galleons of the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet. The commission now sponsors an annual shipwreck symposium with many of the country's most notable marine archaeologists and treasure seekers present. With archaeological training seminars, lectures, films and shipwreck excavations, it is an exciting weekend for amateur and professional treasure hunters, archaeologists and shipwreck fans.

Wrecks that are regularly dived from the Gold Coast include the tug **Trio Bravo**, several barges and a houseboat. Some have had their true identities confused over the years. The *Copenhagen* is now commonly called the **Cumberland Barge**. The true **Cumberland** is actually a hopper dredge known locally as the **Cement Ship**, which sank in the 1930s.

Of all the wrecks, the most colorful is definitely the **Old Houseboat**. Eighty feet down for more than 20 years, it is encrusted with gorgonians and sponges. Guarded and patrolled by three to four dozen enormous barracuda, her belly is home to hundreds of tropicals that hide among her ribs and railings. Because it is close to the stream the current keeps the wreck and adjacent reef flooded with clear water and often requires the dive to be done while drifting.

In just a few years, Florida's Gold Coast has grown from a local secret shared by a few to one of the hottest dive resort locations in the state. With some of the most famous beaches in the country; top quality resort operators; an abundance of interesting sightseeing attractions; big name entertainers; and very competitive rates, it is a destination that can easily satisfy your diving dreams while keeping your non-diving companions equally entertained. With those winning combinations it is no wonder the secret isn't a secret anymore. The Gold Coast gives you a lot of choices and whatever you choose, it's here!

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A saltwater fishing license is not required unless products are sold in any manner. For information on the sale of saltwater products, please contact the nearest Florida Marine Patrol Office.

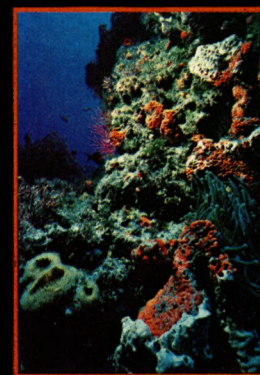
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Bonefish—2 only in possession.
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taken but live crab must be released.

Oysters—3 inches long.

Crawfish—Carapace measurement
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SECTION

CAYMAN KAI RESORT North Wall Mania

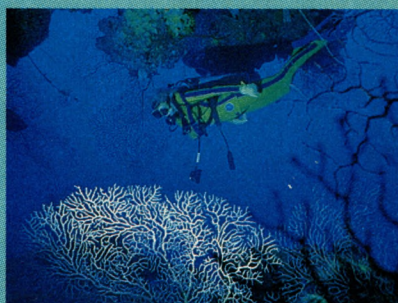
BY BARBARA A. CURRIE

This is the Cayman I came here for a decade ago. Cayman Kai, on Grand Cayman's quiet north coast, has retained the hypnotic charm that converted me to an islophile in 1975. As I bask on Kai's protected beach this sunny February afternoon, I admit to feeling sybaritic and a little superior. Here, I'm undisturbed and could remain that way for as long as I stay at this resort, which won't be long enough. Cayman Kai, in peak season, is also running at peak occupancy—yet the design of the resort and the atmosphere of this still-laid back area would make me believe there's no one here.

I couldn't bask on this isolated beach for long anyway, because I know what's out there, beyond the waves breaking on the fringing reef, where the Caribbean becomes a fathomless cobalt. That gentle surface conceals the wild, untamed underwater world connoisseurs of fine diving consider a worldwide "10": that sub-sea fantasia, Cayman's North Wall.

For serious divers who require outstanding diving, prefer quiet surroundings in an out-island atmosphere, but refuse to accept anything less than superior accommodations and ambience, I recommend Cayman Kai. It's a side of this island you may have missed for too long.

What makes this area of Grand Cayman special? It could be an entire out-



Photo/Geri Murphy

island of the Caymans itself. Cayman Kai is actually a carefully planned community, first developed in the 1960s by a Chicagoan, Don Dise. He loved this part of the island and its people so much he wanted to formulate a plan to preserve the charm and atmosphere for the future. He and those who followed, succeeded.

They built cute cottages, splendid seaside villas, very luxurious condominiums in unique island styles and this fine, full service resort. The variety of accommodations at Cayman Kai will satisfy every vacation taste, from informal comfort to millionaire elegance. Yet, like the people who frequent this area of Cayman, they have a common feeling; superior without being pretentious.

Unlike a decade ago, Cayman Kai is easy to reach, connected with Owen Roberts International Airport and the capital of George Town by a fine modern road, an easy 45 minute drive by the courtesy van which meets all Kai guests.

Cayman Kai community occupies 200 beautifully landscaped acres overlooking the north coast reef which begins 175-200 feet offshore. It provides a year-round lullaby of breakers against stands of elkhorn and stag-horn and a protected snorkeling and



Conrad Muhly and Krystal Gosnay



photos/Paul Humann

swimming area directly off the beach. Just beyond is Cayman's famous North Wall, the setting for some of the Caribbean's finest diving.

Cayman Kai Resort is part of the total Cayman Kai community, which includes private homes, rental beach villas, the Island House Condominiums, the 23 unit Retreat condominium complex and the 26 unit resort itself.

During the past year, the resort has experienced a welcome dose of tender loving care and professional management that devoted considerable attention to detail. This means the original units are attractive and comfortable and the entire resort complex has been upgraded and reorganized to provide a quality product for guests.

The resort actually consists of 26 one and two bedroom "sea lodges," each nicely furnished and offering a small kitchenette, living/dining room

(Continued on Page 94)



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CAYMAN KAI

(Continued from Page 91)

area and screened porch with easy access to the beach. Nearby, The Retreat offers a very different and luxurious vacation lifestyle, in beachfront condominiums blending with the unspoiled landscape but offering pool, racquetball, tennis, workout room, sauna—and privacy.

Completing the Cayman Kai vacation options are a selection of one to four bedroom oceanfront villas, also a short hop from the resort. All share the same amenities of full service restaurant and bars, general store and local markets a few miles away.

The resort's seaside Reef Bar has always been popular with guests and residents of Grand Cayman, whose Sunday tradition consisted of fleeing the "congestion" of Seven Mile Beach for the placid latitudes of North Side. Beneath its thatched roof, the island tradition of gossip swapping remains intact, with a fluctuating cast of characters competing for anonymous notoriety, while languishing over the Kai's libations.

At night, the Top of the Kai becomes the social center. There is a similar tide of exotic cocktails and the added attraction of local entertainment several nights a week, for those with a restless soul for calypso and reggae.

The Kai restaurant is definitely not out-island in terms of quality or service. A hearty breakfast menu, featuring omelets and other fare and lunch menu highlighted by the Kai's famous lobster salad, are only teasers. At night, the resort's internationally trained chef offers a choice of entrees, combining fine Caymanian and imaginative continental entrees for selection by guests—seafood is always on the menu for dinner. (For divers, packages include full American plan (three meals)—with no menu limitation—one of the best food buys anywhere.)

Cayman Kai is not strictly a dive resort. It's a resort catering to a genteel clientele which includes seasoned divers from all over the U.S. and Canada.

The Cayman Kai dive operation offers convenient access to the North Wall sites a short ride from the resort dock at Water Cay, the sheltered area of North Side. Those who come to Cayman Kai to dive, rather than merely unwind in peace, can have the North Wall—and the south coast—as their playgrounds. The operation makes sure that divers will not be beached, by keeping a boat on each side of the island. If the winds kick up in winter, divers are easily transported to equally unspoiled sites off Frank Sound and Cayman's south coast.

The dive shop is behind the office at the resort and has been expanded and renovated in the past year to provide full rental gear and cameras, sign up boards

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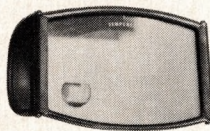
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CAYMAN KAI

and limited equipment sales. Cayman Kai has two compressors with storage banks, 100 tanks and vans providing quick transport to the boats.

Five PADI/NAUI instructor/dive-masters staff the Cayman Kai operation and full certification and resort courses are now regular offerings at the resort which emphasizes a learn to dive program for non-diving guests interested in the sport.

The Kai fleet includes 36 foot and 26 foot Bristol Bluewater flattops and a 24 foot Aquasport. The operation can comfortably accommodate up to 50 divers. Dive boats are booked to make sure no one is crowded and the Kai operating policy emphasizes comfort and safety for all guests.

The Kai dive experience is that elusive excursion into primarily unexplored waters, where divers can't predict what itinerant pelagics and reef dwellers might put in a guest appearance over the wall. There is another plus—rarely is another dive boat in sight when you surface in this area. There's a sense of mystery and the unexpected permeating this undersea side of Grand Cayman, but one secured by the pronounced safety-conscious policies of Kai personnel. Dives are carefully planned; limited to 110 feet and the time limits for no decompression diving.

As a safety precaution, all divers begin their stay with a 60 foot orientation dive to make sure all equipment is working and any problems can be corrected which might interfere with the enjoyment of the dramatic wall dives awaiting.

Morning two tank dives leave at 9:30 am with transportation to the dock provided by courtesy van. One tank dives depart at 2:00 pm.

The names of the favorite dive sites between Old Man Bay and Tarpon Alley on the north coast are as unusual as the names on the wooden signs identifying private villas along the road to Cayman Kai (Love Ya Blue and Cayman Staid, to name two). This is four miles of virgin diving. White Stroke, Doughnut Hole, Haunted House and Queen's Throne are noted in my logbook, all boat dives.

The North Wall is only 300 yards beyond the reef and its spectacular fusion of a variety of hard coral peaks begins between 50 and 60 feet from the surface. During a week of diving at Cayman Kai, you're likely to experience canyons, pinnacles, sand chutes and undercuts covered with gorgonians and populated by Bermuda chubs and ocean triggers.

A popular site just a 15 minute ride from the dock is Andy's Wall. Here, the drop-off begins at 55 feet and falls away to reveal an unusual coral arcade at 90. Its sides are decorated with colorful en-

crusting sponges and deepwater gorgonians—the main thoroughfare for large schools of sennets and other schooling fish. Small wahoo cruise through the seascape beyond the wall and from time to time this site is visited by green sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and groupers.

I feel confident in saying that almost anything a diver wants to see exists out here—from thriving macro communities in shallow locations to collections of reef fish. White Stroke is one exceptional shallow site, a marine museum of miniatures in 30-50 feet. It looks almost like a desert during descent, owing to the sun's reflection off the pure white sand bottom. But up close, a startling collection of coral clusters and tiny sponges is revealed.

Those who visit Cayman Kai might find it difficult to decide which community offers more of what people addicted to small islands want—the congenial out-island ambience ashore or the unspoiled U/W world it overlooks.

Whatever you may hear about Cayman Kai and Cayman's quiet north coast, believe only the best about this very accessible "remote resort area." Wet or dry, you'll find Cayman Kai a memorable experience. Undoubtedly, your stay, like mine, will be too short and you may leave, promising to return. This might be the Cayman you came here for, too.

For information and reservations, contact: Cayman Kai Resort Ltd., Box 1112, Grand Cayman, BWI; (809) 947-9556. In the U.S. write: Cayman Kai Resort, 7220 N.W. 36th St., Suite 205, Miami, FL 33166; phone toll free (800) 223-5427; in Florida (305) 591-3263. 🐠

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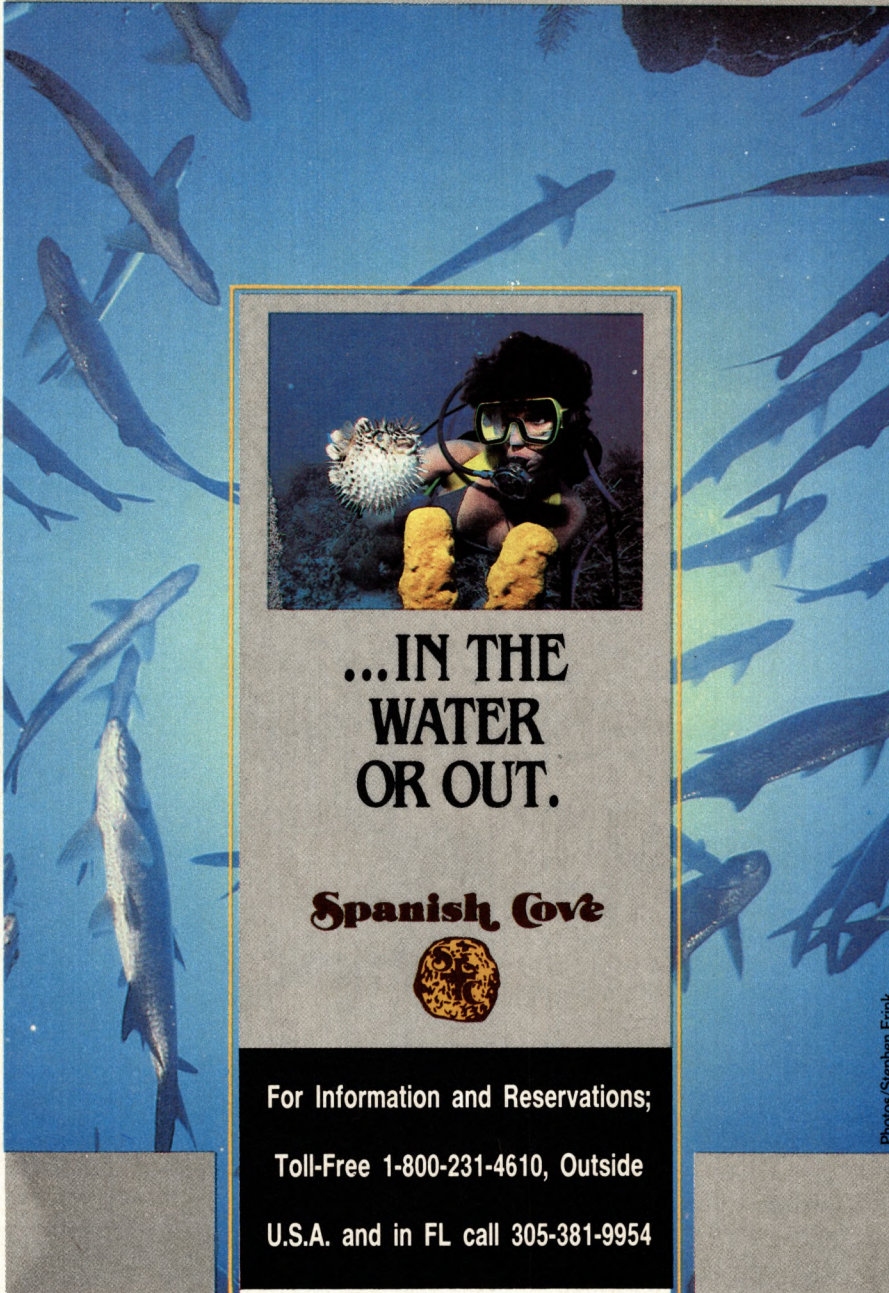
Authorities now agree that 100 percent oxygen is the primary first aid measure for diving emergencies. With this in mind, Life Support Products of Anaheim, California is marketing an emergency oxygen system that is portable and adaptable to emergencies where victims are breathing on their own or where they require artificial respiration. The system comes in several versions, from basic to professional. The system was developed in cooperation with the Divers Alert Network and a contribution from the sale of the product will be made to help support that organization. 🐠



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SKIN DIVER MAY 1985 97

BY BARBARA BRUNDAGE

Lanai is surely Hawaii's best kept secret. Only eight miles from the coast of Maui, it is the smallest of Hawaii's main islands—just 18 miles long and 13 miles wide. Her gently rolling hills rise quickly from the Pacific to 1,600 feet at Lanai City, then peak to 3,300 feet in the mountain range. Up here one can see Lanai's five sister islands: Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, the big island of Hawaii and Oahu.

The island itself is owned for the most part by Castle and Cook, parent company of Dole Pineapple. Lanai is the second largest pineapple producer in the world after the Philippines. Some 12,000 acres of its lowlands are planted with the sweet fruit. The remaining 78,000 uncultivated acres are ripe for exploration. It is easy to get off the beaten path, for less than 30 miles of Lanai's roads are paved. Wildlife enthusiasts enjoy hiking or jeeping through the woodlands, habitat of deer, goats, wild turkey and pheasant.

A short five minute ride from the local airport brings you to Lanai City, a quiet farm community that makes you feel as if time stopped somewhere in the '50s. Beautifully shaded by gatherings of majestic Norfolk pines, the atmosphere in Lanai is one of a small mountain village. The air is fragrant with the scents of pine and pineapple.

Approximately 2,200 people live on the island. Many of them make their homes in Lanai City and most are involved in the pineapple industry. Several general stores, a bakery/snack bar and the post office compose the town square, centered around the city park. On a stroll through the square, one immediately feels welcome. Store clerks and passersby are quick to offer their hospitality with a friendly smile and a kind word.

Nestled among the pines and only two minutes' walk from the town square is Hotel Lanai, dedicated to serving the dive traveler. Built in 1927 by the Dole Company for its VIP guests, Hotel Lanai was recently purchased by Ocean Activities Center of Kihei, Maui. There are ten freshly redecorated double rooms. Each is brightly colored, with a private bath and a unique decor.

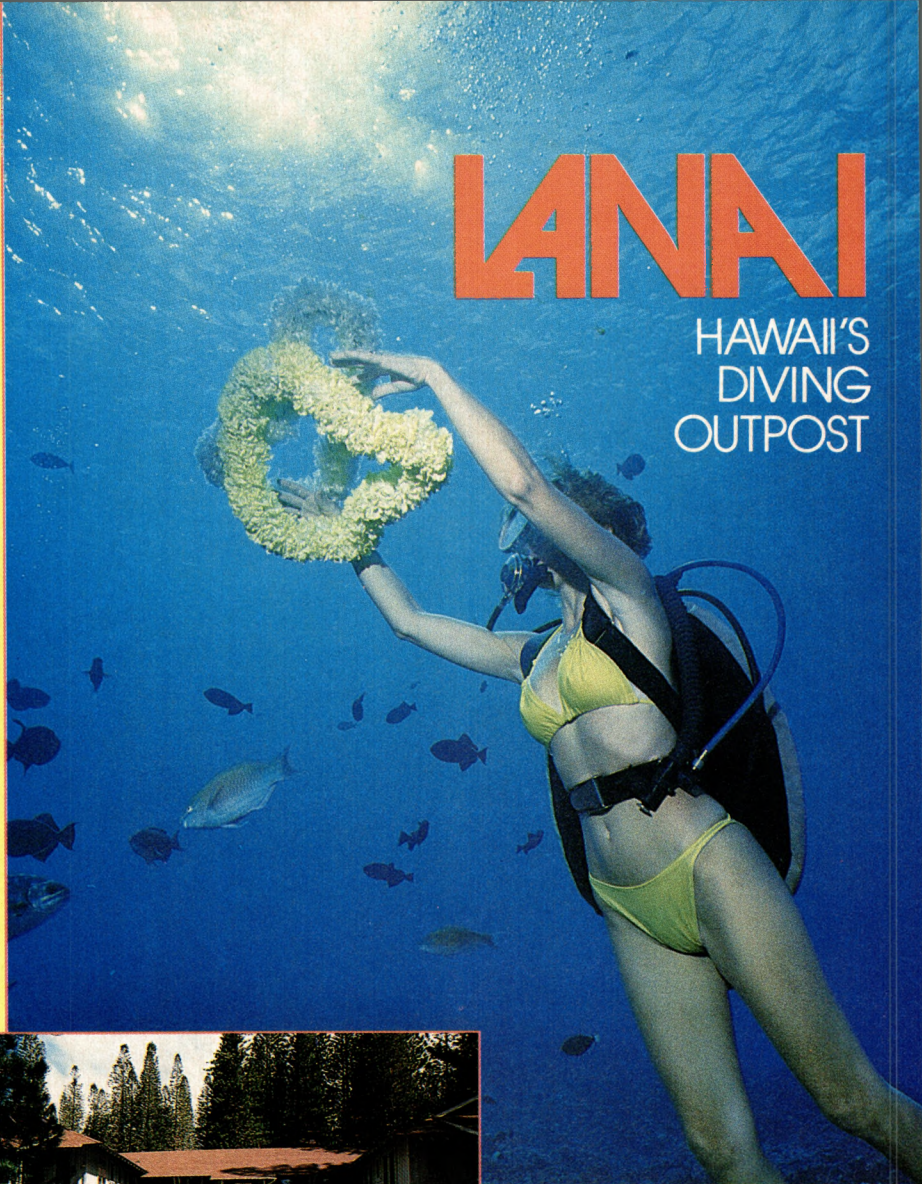
A spacious dining hall is the nucleus of this dive resort. It serves as a gathering place for guests as well as local residents hungry for a tasty homestyle meal. Food and drink are plentiful as well as delicious. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily. The hotel is named in part for its large en-



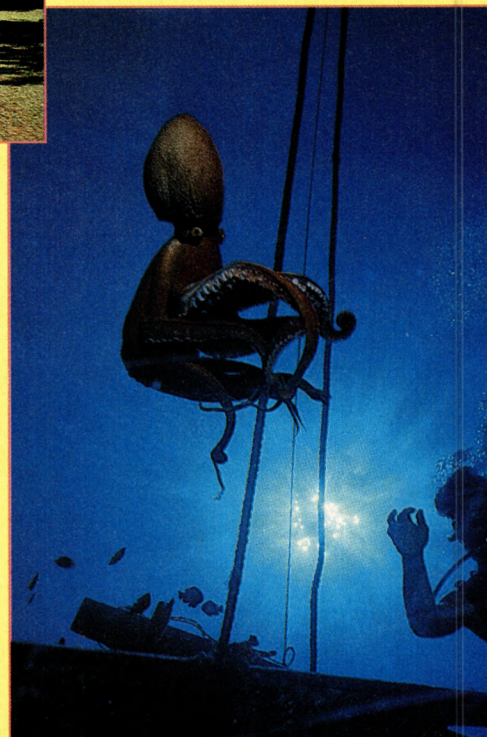
Top: The author carries on a Hawaiian tradition underwater—flower leis. Middle: The Hotel Lanai has ten newly redecorated double rooms. Above: Lanai has over 12,000 acres of pineapples and is the second largest pineapple producer in the world. Right: Hotel manager Byrd Gleason cavorts with a playful octopus—just one of Lanai's many interesting marine inhabitants.

LANAI

HAWAII'S
DIVING
OUTPOST



photos/Bill Gleason



closed lanai (Hawaiian for porch) which fronts the dining hall, providing a comfortable lounge for visitors.

You can forget the pressures of city living at Hotel Lanai. Many guests never bother to lock their hotel room doors because crime is almost non-existent. Those who visit Hotel Lanai find that hospitality abounds. Byrd and Beth Gleason, the hotel's managers, are on a first name basis with everyone and create a homey atmosphere for their guests.

Beth has many talents. Because of her many years of restaurant experience, she has mastered the art of creative cookery. Be sure to try her pineapple pie, one of the most favorable ways to take advantage of the island's specialty.

Byrd is a seaman at heart. A long time diver and Coast Guard licensed captain, he has an acute awareness of the ocean's waters. His ability to find the many dive sites Lanai has to offer is uncanny. Byrd is an accomplished underwater photographer who chooses locations that are especially pleasing to the eye and provide the greatest opportunities for photography and sightseeing.

Both Byrd and Beth are certified PADI and SSI open water instructors. Their 15 years of combined experience included hosting daily dive excursions out of Lahaina to Maui's neighbor islands, which included Lanai.

Lanai is a diver's dream come true. The morning begins with a wholesome, leisurely breakfast—no rising at the crack of dawn to prepare for a two hour boat ride. Manele Bay Harbor is a short, 15 minute jaunt from the hotel. The new Islander, 22 foot open boat is capable of comfortably carrying up to six divers plus a captain. The twin Johnson 120 outboards make it fast. Since most sites are such a short distance from the harbor and the seas are almost always calm, divers usually enjoy the trip while catching a few of the sun's warming rays. Although it is suggested divers bring their own gear, six complete sets of equipment are provided, including Scubapro BCs and regulators, 80 cubic foot aluminum tanks, assorted masks, snorkels and fins as well as wetsuit tops and farmer johns. Underwater lights are also provided for cavern and night dives. Snorkeling equipment is available for non-divers.

Lanai has some of Hawaii's best and least explored dive areas. For years, Maui operators have traveled between two and four hours roundtrip to bring divers to Lanai's subaquatic delights. Now Hotel Lanai guests have the distinct advantage of being moments away. And, better yet, a limitless selection of new and near virgin sites are now accessible to Lanai's visitors.

Three of the island's four faces are diveable year-round owing to prevailing
(Continued on Page 114)

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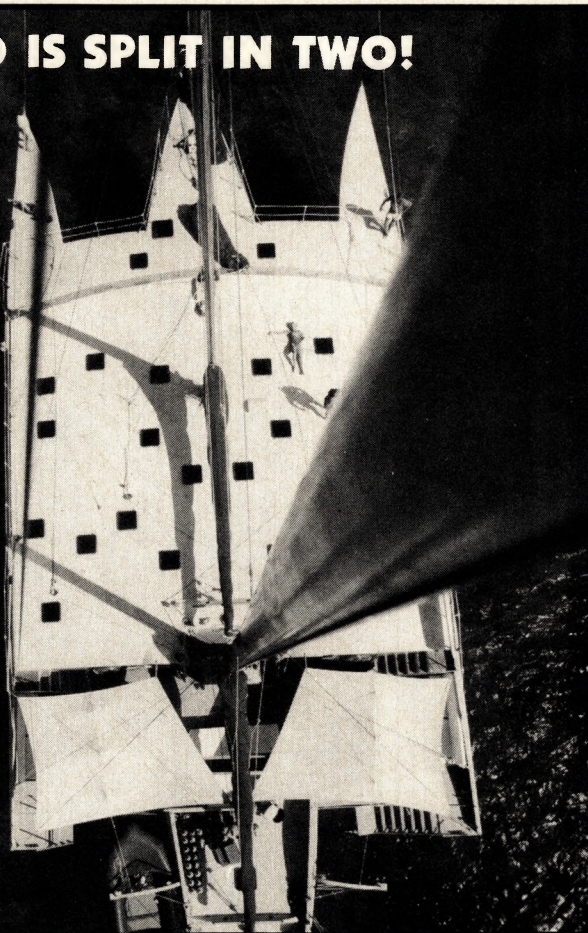
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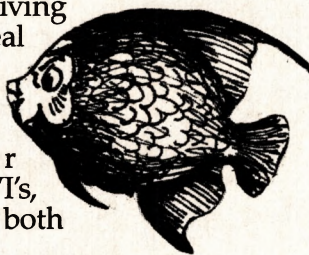
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I could almost believe they were there. At any moment I expected them to sail out of 100 protected cays and coves to announce their presence. Blackbeard and other pirates once sailed these islands, which were perfect for the practice of their evil craft. But no more, now these islands are perfect for one major pursuit; the pursuit of leisure.

The U.S. and British Virgin Islands are known as the most perfect sailing grounds in the Caribbean. In any season, almost any weather, 360 days a year, they are a barrier to the open sea. Rising hundreds of feet out of the ocean, their rich, green, tropical mountain faces break the wind and waves. Running

Pirates in Paradise

**TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY STEVE LUCAS**

southwest to northeast, they form two parallel refuges.

To the north, St. Thomas, St. John, Tortola and several smaller islands stop the Atlantic. Across Sir Francis Drake Channel, St. Croix, Norman, Peter, Salt, Cooper, Ginger and Virgin Gorda contain the Caribbean. Outside, the Atlantic may be raging, but the passage from island to island, and the more than 100 charted dive sites found between their shores, are nearly always calm.

Sailing from Charlotte Amalie on the south coast of St. Thomas, the 51 foot Morgan Outisland yacht *Minx II* still carries a bit of pirate spirit. Owned and chartered by Pirates in Paradise, it does not plunder, but captains Carolyn Rhoads and Michelle Riddle are definitely out to capture a bit of your soul.

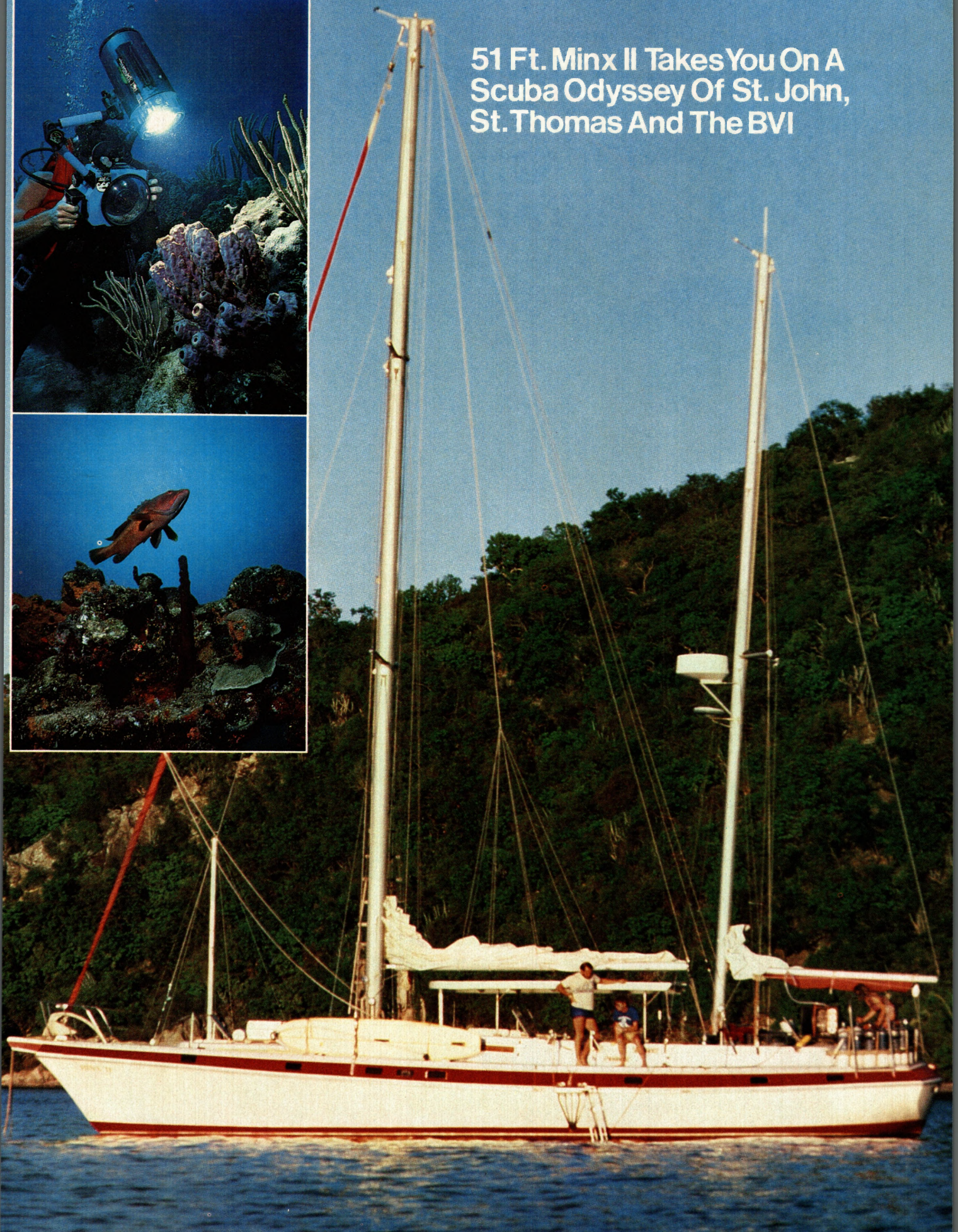
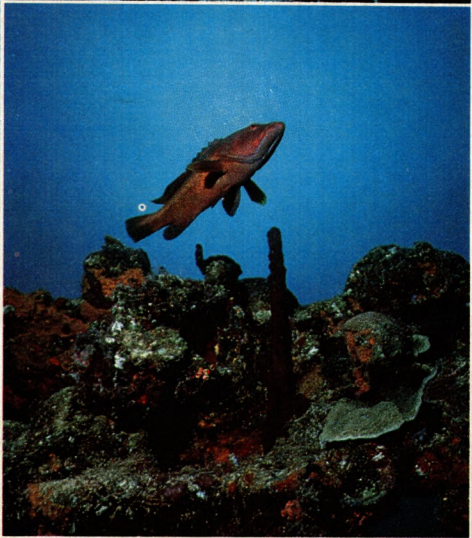
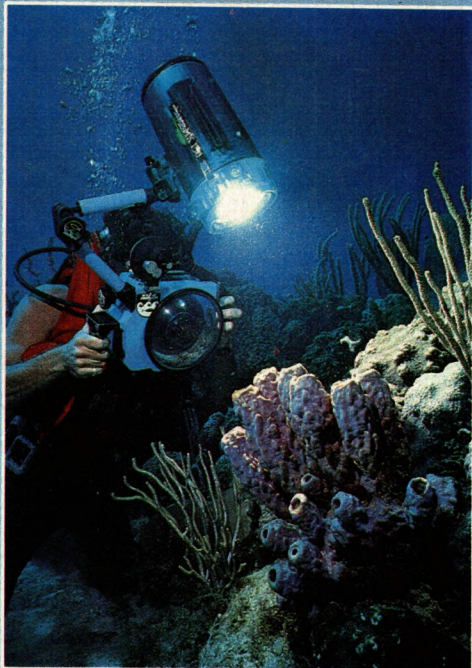
The *Minx II* is a set-your-own-course adventure created to be best enjoyed by friends. A maximum of six persons and a crew of two are taken on each voyage. Guests are in charge of the vessel. Collectively, they decide the type of diving and frequency they want. Wrecks, no problem; shallow reefs, no problem; caves or deeper drop-offs—the list is practically endless.

When I first joined a sail-dive adventure in progress at Tortola in the BVIs, I had

(Continued on Page 116)

Right: The 51 foot Morgan Outisland yacht, *Minx II*, carries six guests to their choice of the best dive sites in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. Insets: (top) Mauricio Ruiz at Rudder Rock; (lower) rock hind on the bow of the *Rhone*.

51 Ft. Minx II Takes You On A
Scuba Odyssey Of St. John,
St. Thomas And The BVI





SOTO'S REEF

Grand Cayman is best known for its fabulous drop-off diving. But there is another type of diving going on that is becoming increasingly popular: Diving from shore. One of the oldest and best known shore dives is Soto's Reef. On the west side of the island, close to the center of George Town, the reef lies directly in front of the Lobster Pot Restaurant and Burger King. Swimming distance from shore ranges from 150 to 300 yards.

photos/Courtney Platt, Guy Pelland and Geri Murphy



Soto's Reef, offshore the Bob Soto's Scuba Centre, can be reached by boat or from shore. The reef is inhabited by a variety of fascinating fish, including huge, shimmering schools of silversides at the Fry Cave.

ONE OF GRAND CAYMAN'S TOP SHORE DIVES

BY GERI MURPHY

ORIGIN OF NAME

The reef system is named after Bob Soto, Grand Cayman's pioneer dive resort operator. The reef was close to Bob Soto's first dive shop established one-quarter century ago. Soto utilized this reef for daily dive trip excursions and instruction for beginning divers. In the early 1950s the reef was inhabited by a school of giant tarpon and other large creatures.

Since Soto used the reef so frequently, it became known among Grand Caymanians as Soto's Reef.

SIZE AND SHAPE

Soto's Reef is one of the larger coral reef systems that can be dived from shore. The reef measures approximately one-half mile long from north to south and about one-quarter mile wide from east to west. It is too large to cover on one dive. In fact, it has been divided into three distinct areas featuring three different types of dive; Soto's North, Soto's Central and Soto's South.

Depths range from 20 feet along the in-

side edge to 40 feet along the outer. The coral reef complex rises to within six feet of the surface in some areas, a little deeper in others.

Soto's Reef is honeycombed with coral caves, winding tunnels and well lit grottoes. There are also narrow canyonways cutting through the high coral heads, plus a few isolated individual heads. It is virtually an underwater city of coral structures.

Underwater visibility averages 80 feet. Since Soto's Reef lies close to shore on the lee side of the island, the water's surface is frequently glassy calm in the summer, although there may be some slight

ripples during the winter months. It's almost bathtub diving.

MARINE LIFE

Soto's Reef is comprised of a variety of hard, stony corals. The bulk of this mass is star coral. On top are beds of delicate small staghorn and occasional brain corals. Along the sides you will find sheet or plate corals.

The reef is inhabited by a wide variety of fish. Schools of blue surgeons cruise back and forth over the coral formations. There are quite a number of different parrotfish species including rainbows, blues and midnights. There are dozens of pea-



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SOTO'S REEF

cock flounders to be found on the sand floor around the base of the corals. On numerous occasions, divers have also spotted the rare batfish resting on the sand as well.

On the top of the reef one will see a great many butterflyfish, wrasse, gobies, squirrelfish and other tropicals. On special occasions, divers have encountered stingrays, eagle rays and tarpon in small numbers. Last summer Soto's Reef was inhabited by a large manta ray for more than a month.

In addition to the fish population, Soto's Reef offers an excellent opportunity to explore and observe a fascinating repertoire of macro creatures. There are literally dozens of sea anemones, each inhabited by one or more communal shrimp. Small vase sponges often harbor shy brittlestars. There are lots of pencil sea urchins but very few of the thorny, long spined variety. At night, divers are likely to encounter small lobsters, octopus, spider crabs or the nocturnal red shrimp out in the open.

On the seaward side of Soto's Reef the

sand bottom is inhabited by hundreds of garden eels that poke their quizzical little faces out of their sand burrows, quickly retreating at the approach of a diver.

TYPES OF DIVING

Soto's Reef has something for everyone. It is an ideal area for beginning divers to experience their first open water lessons about the ocean environment and the coral reef ecosystem.

The location is also ideal for underwater photography, whether it be wide angle, fish portraits or macro. My favorite photo dive here is late in the afternoon when the light enters the caves at an angle, producing a cathedral like effect. It is a striking scene, especially if you happen on a school of silversides. It is little wonder that Soto's Reef is frequently used by Hollywood production companies and advertising agencies shooting major commercial films.

Because of the abundant marine life, Soto's Reef has become a very popular night dive spot. It is also a great place for a sunset dive.

The reef is excellent for beginning cave divers. The labyrinth of tunnels, caves and grottoes provides the excitement and feel of cave diving, yet underwater lights are not an absolute necessity. A diver can see daylight from any location within

these caves and tunnels.

Soto's Reef can be dived by boat or from shore at just about any time of the day or night. Hardcore divers find it a great spot for extra dives after the normal boat trip excursions.

SHORE DIVING FACILITIES

Adjacent to Soto's Reef is the well known Bob Soto's Scuba Centre. This facility is between the Lobster Pot and the Burger King. The Scuba Centre consists of a dive shop boutique, scuba rental department, indoor and outdoor classroom and a shore diving entry location.

Visitors to Grand Cayman can rent equipment and shore dive from this facility very economically. For as little as \$15 a diver can rent a tank, backpack, weights and flag on a float. If the diver is already booked on one of the Bob Soto diving packages, shore diving at the Centre is absolutely free!

How good is the diving at Soto's Reef? The manager at the Scuba Centre reports that many divers come back to dive this reef two or three times during their week's stay on the island.

For more information about diving Soto's Reef or the Scuba Centre, contact: Bob Soto's Diving Ltd., P.O. Box 1811, Grand Cayman, BWI. To call direct dial (809) 949-2022.



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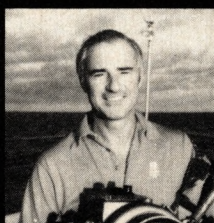
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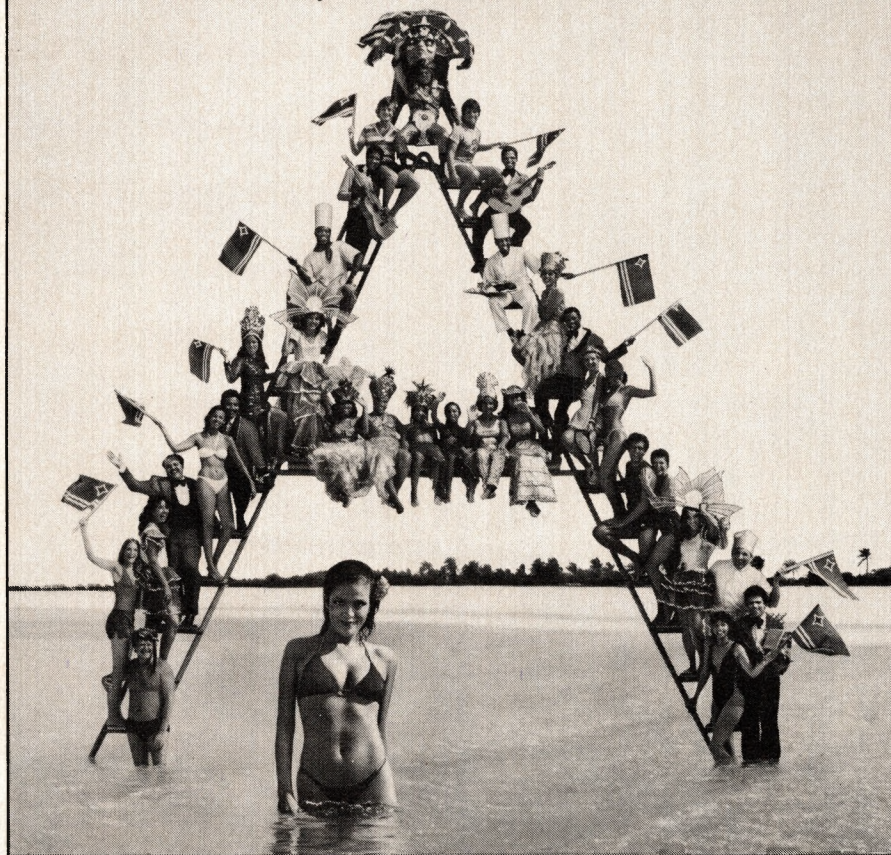
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AQUA ADVENTURES BROCHURES

Aqua Adventures, the New York scuba tour operator, has new spring/summer dive vacation brochures featuring the Bahamas and the Caribbean. Diving packages are offered at 14 different resorts in the Bahamas and 12 resorts in the Caribbean including Bonaire, the Caymans, Jamaica, Curacao, St. Lucia, Roatan, Antigua, St. Thomas and St. Croix.

For a copy of the brochure and more information contact Aqua Adventures.

KEY WEST PRO DIVE PACKAGES

Recently, Bob Holsten and other instructors at Key West Pro Dive Shop put together a package that included: convenience, experience, deep dives and photography. The group was booked at the luxurious Pelican Landing Club right next door. Bob's agreement with the Is-



land Diver and his own fully equipped dive shop provided a memorable dive.

The *Island Diver* carried the 12 guests and four instructors about seven miles southeast of Key West past Sand Key Lighthouse to Eyeglass Bar, a 100 foot deep chunk of coral teeming with native tropical fish and known for good visibility.

Key West Pro Dive has numerous packages available. Snorkel or dive trips are available every day for novice to advanced divers.

BIMINI BOAT

Sharkbuster, a 40 foot custom dive boat, has been added to Neal Watson's Undersea Adventures fleet in Bimini, Bahamas. The vessel is powered by a 300 hp turbo-charged diesel, capable of speeds in excess of 25 mph. It is equipped with radar, Loran C, autopilot, RDF, VHF, two depth recorders and marine stereo. It is set up to handle 20 divers and crew with a large cut away transom and stainless platform.

The added speed and electronics of this new boat will allow easy access to dive sites previously beyond range.

VANUATU'S HIDEAWAY ISLAND

A South Pacific Paradise

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BENJAMIN GLICK

Hideaway Island—the name aptly describes this resort tucked into a remote corner of the world. Situated in the Republic of Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides), it lies at the eastern extreme of the Coral Sea. The entire island chain is a popular diving destination for nearby Australians and New Zealanders as it is surrounded by crystal clear waters and beautiful fringing coral reefs. Hideaway Island is ringed by some of the most spectacular and exciting diving sites to be found in the Pacific; the shallow 82°F waters are also ideal for snorkeling and natural light photography.

The resort, run by Sue Antonio, is full of South Pacific charm. The simple fares, native-style bungalows, are isolated from one another by lush tropical vegetation. An open air dining area built in the same style offers Melanesian buffets. The food is excellent and plentiful, with tropical fruit salads and seafood dishes predominating. Australian and French wines are served along with tropical rum punches. On Fridays a special island show is put on by the residents of neighboring Mele Village; the dancing and singing convey the major differences between Western and island cultures without making the visitor feel intrusive or set apart.

Hideaway Island's appeal is enhanced by the outstanding professional dive operation run by Tony Antonio, the perfectionist who also maintains the boats and equipment. There are 36 aluminum tanks and two 6.4 cfm compressors; water transport is provided either by a 7.3 meter Haines Hunter catamaran with two 175 hp Evinrudes or by a roomy flat bottom boat which offers easy entry and exit.

In the protection of Mele Bay, diving is almost always available and visibility is between 70-120 feet. The majority of dive sites are 10-15 minutes away from the dive store. Two dives a day are included in the package.

Two of the many outstanding dives are *Acropora* and Ghost Train. The latter is a series of coral tunnels illuminated by the sunlight which streams down from slits in



the coral ceilings high above the sandy bottom. Several species of lionfish can be seen here along with the brightly colored harlequin tusk fish. Shells are abundant; I found an empty *cribraria* cowry on the floor of one of the many chambers.

Acropora is a sloping reef with layer upon layer of huge tabletop corals. Under these platforms live diverse piscine species including clown, butterfly and parrot fish. I counted over a dozen different butterflyfish during a single dive and under one coral overhang I spotted a well camouflaged crocodilefish.

Once a week trips are run to nearby Hat Island where ocean currents bring in tuna and barracuda. Close inshore, the reef slopes up sharply to reveal the many caves and tunnels which riddle its variegated coral formations. A diver can expend several tanks here and never tire of the varied scenery which includes large, beautifully colored gorgonian and alcyonarian corals.

The three acres which make up Hideaway Island are five miles from Port Vila, the capital city of Vanuatu. Here, one finds many duty-free shops as well as the daily native market which offers an abundance of Melanesian artifacts and shells.

Any trip to Vanuatu should include a two day stay on the island of Espiritu Santo, a major U.S. base during WW II. Less

than 100 yards offshore are the easily accessible remains of the U.S.S. *Coolidge*, one of the world's premier wreck dives. Its huge deck guns are partially overgrown with corals and its holds are full of trucks, guns and other armaments. Allen Power's Santo Dive Tours arranges custom dives of the wreck.

Another outstanding attraction takes place on Pentecost Island during the months of April and May. This is the season for the natives to ensure the success of their upcoming yam harvest. Their unusual ritual involves climbing atop a wooden platform 80 feet above their fields and diving to the ground below with only flimsy vines strapped to their ankles to break their fall.

Transportation to Vanuatu is available by scheduled jet service on Air Pacific from Fiji and on several airlines from Australia. The weather is generally good throughout the year, but variable rainfall and increased humidity are present from November to April. The rest of the year the climate is warm and relatively dry.

When planning a Pacific holiday consider Vanuatu; you won't be disappointed. Information can be obtained from Aquarius Dive Travel, 40-42 Taylor Street, Ashburton, Victoria, 3147 Australia or from Scuba Holidays Ltd., Hideaway Island, Port Vila, Vanuatu. 🐠

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per day, along with tanks, air, etc. And Heron's full facilities include day and night tennis, a cinema, swimming pool, well-stocked bar and dance band. Situated within a marine national park, Heron is perfect for close-up and macro underwater photography. You can also explore by glass-bottom boat, go for a reef walk, or go deep sea fishing. Would-be divers can learn at Heron's own certified diving school. There's no diving like the Great Barrier Reef, and no place on the reef like Heron Island. For information and dive brochure, call (714) 786-0119.

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BLACKBEARD'S SAILBOAT

A new sailboat is scheduled to be in operation this summer with Blackbeard's Cruises. Blackbeard's currently operates the *Sea Explorer* and *Morning Star* on four, seven and ten day sailing and diving cruises to the Bahamas.

DIVE BONAIRE FLEET

A new dive boat has joined the Dive Bonaire fleet. The 36 foot *Sunset* is powered by a turbo-charged 350 hp V-8 Per-



kins diesel engine and is capable of speeds of 20 knots.

Working closely with Cat Limbo Marine, Inc., of Palmetto, Florida, Peter Hughes completely redesigned the vessel's interior for diving. With flush decks, walk-through transom, large dive platform, custom ladders and back level tank racks, *Sunset* will take up to 20 divers on two tank dives to the remote areas of Bonaire's north shore.

Dive Bonaire's fleet now numbers three vessels, but two sister ships to *Sunset* are to be delivered this year.

AQUA ACTION

Aqua Action, Secret Harbor Beach, St. Thomas, USVI, has been purchased by Russell Coffin and Harry Fischer. Coffin, a Brazilian photographer, USCG captain and scuba instructor and Fischer, an experienced underwater guide, are bringing their aquatic expertise from different parts of the world to St. Thomas.

An SSI and PADI training facility, Aqua Action is undergoing complete renovation and more services will be added to fill the needs of St. Thomas visitors. Immediate improvements include new aluminum tanks, rental of scuba equipment for shore dives in front of the dive shop, an expanded boutique, certification upgrades and charter booking for sailing, boardsailing and deepsea fishing.

SUNSET HOUSE

Sunset House, one of Grand Cayman's best known dive resorts, recently opened a new wing of nine rooms. The addition brings the hotel's available accommodations to 42 rooms. All are air-conditioned and the new nine rooms have phones.

Other new additions include Xerox and Telex services for business-oriented guests. There is also a small conference room. Owner Adrien Briggs plans to add a dive shop later this year. Sunset House has dive packages available.

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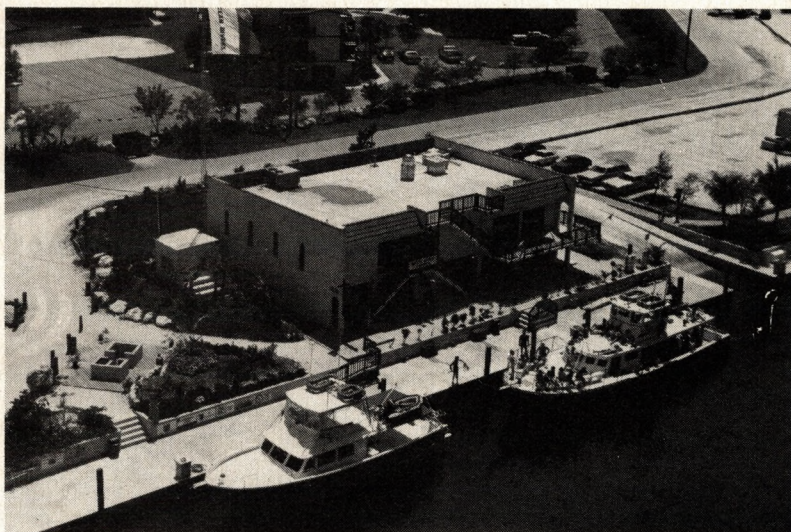


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MARRIED PERSONS MAY APPLY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT This is to be ☐ AN INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT ☐ A JOINT ACCOUNT

Applicant

Last Name	First	Initial	Age	Driver's License No.	Social Security No.
Present Street Address		Apt. No.	City	State	Zip Code
Telephone No. A.C. ()	How Long At Residence Yrs. Mos.		Own Rent	Buying Other	No. of Dependents
Previous Home Address		City	State	Zip Code	How Long at Previous Address Yrs. Mos.
Present Position	Present Employer		How Long Yrs. Mos.		Monthly Income From Job \$
Employers Street Address		City	State	Zip Code	Business Phone No. AC ()
Nearest Relative Name		Address			Telephone No. AC ()

Co-Applicant

Last Name	First	Initial	Age	Driver's License No.	Social Security No.
Present Position	Present Employer		Business Telephone No. AC ()		How Long Yrs. Mos.
Other Income Source	Amount \$	Monthly \$	Quarterly \$	Annually \$	

OTHER INCOME: You do not have to list alimony, child support or maintenance unless you want us to consider it in order to obtain this credit. If you are married and live in a community property state, your earnings, your spouse's earnings and all "other income" are presumed to be community property unless you indicate otherwise.

Applicant Bank Accounts

Checking Acct. No.	Bank Name	Address	City	State
Savings Acct. No.				
Checking Acct. No.	Savings and Loan	Address	City	State
Savings Acct. No.				

Credit/History (Applicant and Co-Applicant)

Name of Creditor	City/State	Account No.	Monthly Payments	Balance Due
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Credit Card Co.			\$	\$
Credit Card Co.			\$	\$
Credit Card Co.			\$	\$
Auto	Year & Model		\$	\$
Other Debts			\$	\$
Other Debts			\$	\$
			Total	Total

I assure you that the above information is complete and correct. You may verify any of this information and may check my credit and employment history from time to time. You may also answer questions from others about your credit and account experience with me. I agree to be bound by the charge card agreement which accompanies the card(s) that you send me. If I do not agree to be bound by such agreement, I will immediately cut the card(s) in half and notify you in writing that I have done so, all before the first use of the card(s).

X
Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____ X
Co-Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____
If this is to be a joint account, (your spouse does not have to sign as a co-applicant if this is to be your separate account.)

X
(Optional) Signature of Spouse _____ Date _____

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CHARGE IT! TO PADI

Diving's First National Credit Card System

BY PAUL TZIMOULIS

Symbols are big these days. Many sports have their own emblems, flags or mascots. But only diving has its own credit card—a true sign of prosperity. Nineteen eighty-four will go down in history as the year diving got its national credit card system; a first for American outdoor sports. Thanks to the efforts of PADI, a diver can now walk into a dive store with a plastic card and buy anything from a \$2 air fill, to a \$400 BC jacket, to a \$1,200 scuba vacation for two.

It is fairly easy to get this diving credit card (if you have average credit), it is simple to use and it allows you to buy what you want even on an impulse.

In mid 1983, PADI got together with First Interstate Bank to develop a nationwide system of easy credit for divers. This was quite a challenge since there had never been such a program before. First Interstate supplied the financial knowhow, cash reserves and credit checking system. PADI had the dive store network, an image of integrity and the promotional pizzazz. It was a perfect match. Out of this marriage was born the PADICARD—diving's first plastic money. It was truly a giant step forward in consumer convenience.

By February 1985, PADI had set up 520 dive stores as authorized PADICARD dealers, covering 45 states and many overseas dive resorts. The organization had issued 4,500 cards and extended almost \$2 million in credit. The program was off to a great start!

The PADICARD program is incredibly simple. It is easier to obtain a PADICARD than it is to obtain most other credit cards. Here is how it works. A diver walks into his or her local PADI dive



photos/Geri Murphy

Divers can charge new gear, equipment repairs and dive trips with the PADICARD—welcomed at dive stores carrying the PADICARD decal.

store, decides what he/she wants to purchase and requests "express credit."

The dive store picks up the nearest telephone and calls the First Interstate Bank people. If the diver has average credit, the store can obtain credit clearance in 30 to 45 minutes. Meanwhile, the diver has time to leisurely shop around the store or have a cup of coffee.

Once "express credit" has been cleared, the diver is assigned a credit card number and a purchase limit—usually \$2,500 (average). The diver receives the actual plastic card in the mail 10 to 12 days later. The card is attractive, colorful and waterproof.

The PADICARD can be used for just about any kind of purchase: dive equipment, regulator repairs, local dive trips, air fills and major dive vacation packages. And, should you be traveling to another state or country, you'll be amazed by the number of dive stores accepting this card.

What does it cost the card holder? The diver pays only \$18 per year for the annual PADICARD membership. There are no add-ons, no other costs. The dive store owner pays the financing fee to the bank, wisely figuring he will sell a lot more gear with such a program.

One of the side benefits of the PADICARD is it provides the holder with an easy way of tracking scuba expenditures. Statements are issued monthly.

Ready to go out and get your PADICARD? Fine, just drop into a dive store that carries the new PADICARD decal in its window or on the cash register. If you cannot locate one in your area, write to Herb Ward, PADI, 1243 East Warner Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705 for a PADICARD application.

Incidentally, every new PADICARD holder receives a list of over 500 dive stores that honor the card. A new, updated list is mailed out each year with membership renewal.

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LANAI

(Continued from Page 99)

tradewinds that create a leeward shoreline. Protective volcanic cliffs, rising 900 feet from the ocean's surface, create calm, clear waters with visibilities ranging from 100 to 200 feet. The island's scant rainfall (12-35 inches annually) makes stream runoff virtually non-existent.

Lanai was created some 25 million years ago by a series of volcanic eruptions. As the molten lava poured into the sea, it hardened instantly, creating a multitude of tubes, tunnels, arches and caverns conveniently close to Lanai's shoreline. Even the most seasoned divers are intrigued by the unusual sculptures. At certain areas nearshore the drop-off may plunge vertically to 200 feet or more while other spots level off at depths of 30 to 60 feet.

Lanai waters contain a variety of interesting and unusual sea creatures. There are thousands of colorful tropicals, a curious array of eels and larger sea life such as turtles, dolphins and rays. The gentle humpback whale makes its winter home in the channel among the three islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai and whale sightings from dive boats are an almost daily occurrence then.

It is rumored that more than 60 excellent dive sites exist. The vast majority is seldom visited and a large section of the northwestern coast awaits discovery. A few of Byrd and Beth's favorite dive locations include:

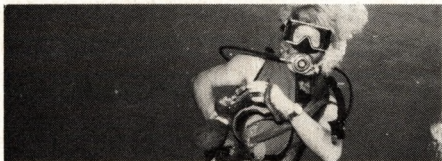
Cathedrals I: Just a two minute ride from Manele Bay Harbor, this is probably the most popular dive site on Lanai. Several pinnacles rise from 60 feet to just below the surface. Large spacious caverns create a cathedral-like appearance. The sun's rays shining through the openings create a colorful stained glass effect. A friendly group of spotted moray eels, always a delight to visiting divers, make their homes in the outer reef structure.

Cathedrals II: A ten minute ride from Cathedral I, this 60 foot site is best known for its detailed chamber formations and great abundance of marine life. Three varieties of lobsters are found living in the cavern's shadows. Delicate, elongated pipefish hover vertically near the reef. White ghost shrimp with long tentacles enjoy the dark corners.

Monolith: This single block of hardened lava could be construed as nature's monument to the beauty of its own sea creatures. A plateau begins at 40 feet and drops abruptly to between 90 and 110 feet. Stretch, a five foot long pet brown moray, enjoys the curious attention of his bubbling viewers. Black coral can be seen at this site. Within it lives a rare Hawaiian deep water fish: the long nose hawkfish. The two inch long red and

white striped creature perches precariously on the coral's branches. The stubborn and motionless scorpionfish, a variety of rainbow hued nudibranches and an occasional octopus are all part of the scenery at the shallower depths on the plateau. Byrd calls this one an "easy deep dive."

Grand Canyon: This awesome structure is a sheer walled canyon more than 100 feet long with sides rising vertically to 40 feet. The canyon averages 10 feet wide with the floor at 65 feet. Big game fish are often spotted in a cave to one



side of the canyon. This is a superb location for watching and photographing the seldom seen Hawaiian lionfish and the even more bizarre looking leaffish.

Byrd and Beth usually plan leisurely two tank dives that may encompass half a day. More diving, including night dives, is available for the avid explorer. Each trip is carefully supervised. It is the Gleasons' desire to guide each diver through every area so nothing is missed. Conservation is a strong point with them.

Once you've explored Lanai's U/W beauty, try hiking or jeeping the network of mountain trails that begin within a five minute walk from the hotel. Visit Shipwreck Beach, site of a World War II ship's hull or Hawaii's finest petroglyphs. Or, just lie back under a shade tree and listen to the waves at Hulopoe Beach.

Though it is the least known of the Hawaiian Islands, Lanai is easy to get to by air or sea. A \$10 boat ride will take you from Maui to Lanai in less than two hours. A "more betta" way, as they say in Hawaii, is to fly! Both Reeves Air and Royal Hawaiian Air offer several trips each day from Honolulu and Maui. Flights take no more than 30 minutes and the smaller aircraft (usually nine seat Cessnas) provide breathtaking views because they fly lower than the larger planes. The flights are conveniently scheduled to connect with mainland carriers. Reeves Air and Hotel Lanai have created a very economical package that may be tailored to each person's needs, depending on how much or how little diving is desired.

Keep in mind that Hotel Lanai has just 10 rooms. Therefore, early reservations are a must. To make arrangements you may write or call: Ocean Activities Center, 3750 Wailea Alanui D-2, Wailea, HI 96753, (808) 879-4485; or Byrd and Beth Gleason, Hotel Lanai, P.O. Box A-119, Lanai City, Lanai, HI 96763, (808) 565-6605. Lanai offers all the experiences of a remote Pacific island while still providing the convenience of traveling within the USA. It's all there—awaiting discovery in your own backyard! 🐠

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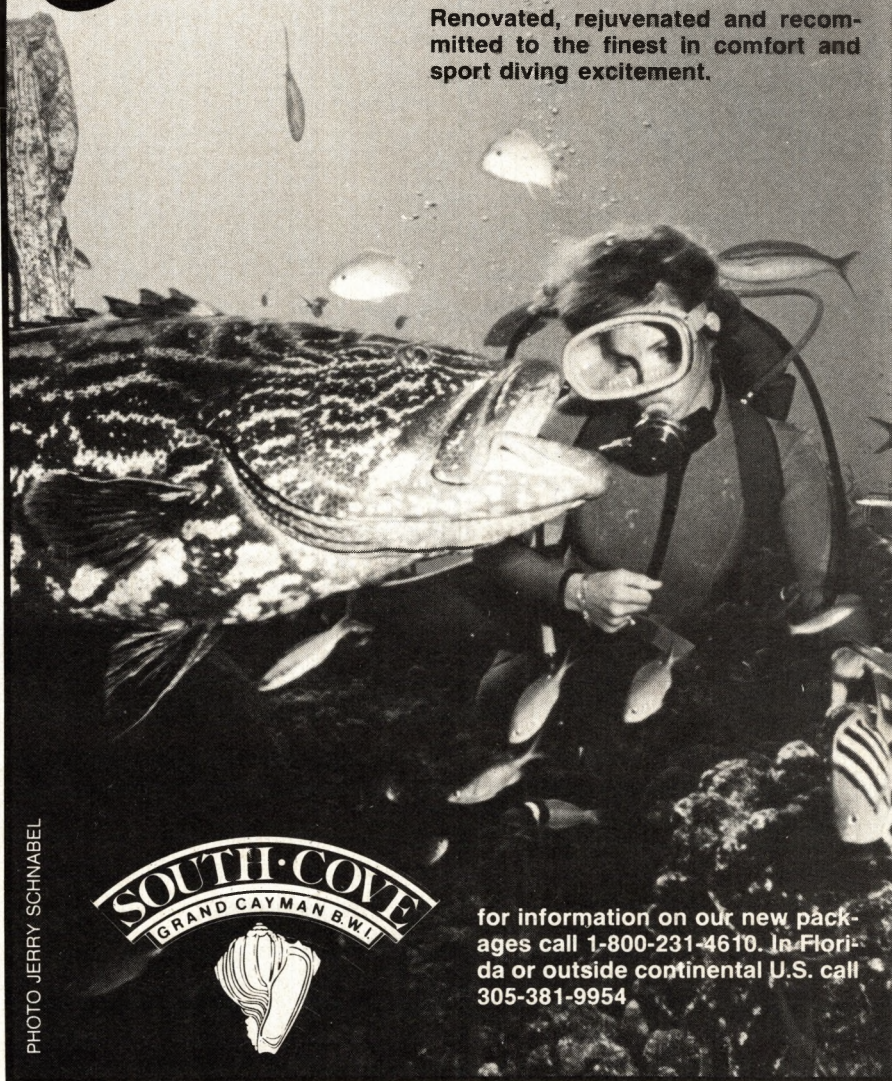


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PIRATES IN PARADISE

(Continued from Page 101)

only one site in mind: the *Rhone*. The best known wreck in the islands and perhaps the world, it was a filming location for the movie *The Deep*. Heavily populated with fish and invertebrates, the wreck is a collage of almost everything that makes diving exciting. Sunk in 1867 by a violent hurricane, it sits submerged on the rocks to the south of Salt Island. One hundred twenty-five persons died, only a few survived. With her engine room flooded, the giant 310 foot mail ship broke in two pieces. The stern, with its enormous encrusted prop, rests in only 30 feet. Her overgrown bowsprit slopes down to 80 feet. A resident gang of overgrown yellowtail snappers swarm above her while shy, pale red squirrelfish hide deep inside. Amidship, her coral covered ribbings resemble the columns of the Parthenon, giving her an almost ghostly, yet regal, appearance. But the *Rhone* is only a prelude to diving the VIs.

Many sites draw their names from the gigantic rock and boulder formations that line the islands. Rudder Rock appears from a distance to be an enormous ship's rudder standing alone. Infrequently dived, it is typical of many reefs in the Virgin Islands. Long sand channels begin right at the water's edge, where stands of elkhorn coral line the reef's perimeter. Alternating with sand and coral, continuous, dense, mounds climb ten feet as the configurations run toward deeper water. In the center, giant brain and star corals provide firm anchorage for large, wavy, purple seafans and tubular orange sponges. Angelfish work their ways up and down the chutes while featherduster worms, seemingly a foot across, pop into hiding when disturbed.

South of Tortola, the Indians are the sentinels of the channel. Four large rocks jutting up from the seafloor, they form a mini-wall and have millions of invertebrates clinging to their sides. To one edge a spectacular mound of pillar coral reaches for the surface, while on the other a shallow cave with one horizontal and one vertical opening serves as refuge for thousands of copper sweepers.

Other caves are shallow enough to be waded. At the Baths, an anchorage on Virgin Gorda, rounded boulders larger than a two story house border a quiet beach. Because they have been exposed to the surges of the open Atlantic, cave-like passages have formed between the rocks. They make picturesque settings for snorkeling when the water is calm.

At popular anchorages such as Cooper Island, Spanish Town or Great Dog, the dive-sail day is ended with the sound of mate Mauricio Ruiz softly plucking the

strings of a classical guitar. Every evening Captain Carolyn serves up a secret recipe of steak, chicken or fish with a delicate sauce, fresh vegetables and a glass of wine as the purple after-glow of a setting sun overtakes you. At some anchorages it is possible to go ashore for an evening of local entertainment, at other remote sites the entertainment is provided by the islands, the sea and the stars.

Operated strictly as a private charter, the *Minx II* can serve two to six persons at a time, depending on how much company or privacy you desire. If there is any pirate blood in you, the type that requires you to get away from organized trips, then Pirates in Paradise is awaiting your call: (800) 524-2077. For a color brochure write: Pirates in Paradise, Inc., P.O. Box 9904, St. Thomas, USVI 00801. 🌴

FLORIDA FOSSILS

The state of Florida has legislated conservation of fossil vertebrates found on its lands, including submerged lands. The law, summarized in a newsletter from the Florida Paleontological Society (Volume 1, no. 1, December 1984) encourages continued collecting in Florida's springs, streams and elsewhere. It only requires that collectors apply for a \$5 permit from, and report their fossil finds to, the Florida State Museum in Gainesville. The purpose is to save any specimens new to science for the museum.

For more information or a copy of the newsletter, contact the Florida State Museum, Museum Road, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. 🌴

MAINE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOPS

The Maine Photographic Workshops (photography summer school) offer photographers the opportunity to travel under the leadership of well known professionals. This year's trips for underwater photographers are as follows: Grand Cayman—August 3-17; and Bonaire—January 25-February 8.

For more information contact the Maine Photographic Workshops, Rockport, ME 04856. 🌴

CAYMAN VIDEO COURSES

Fisheye Photo of Grand Cayman is offering two advanced video courses this year. Utilizing the compact JVC video system and Ikelite accessories, the courses will cover both in-water sessions and classroom lectures and workshops. Emphasis will be placed on producing a complete show with post production techniques studied.

The course will be taught by instructors from MBC Productions of Indianapolis and will last five complete days. Diving will be provided by Fisheye aboard the *F-Stop II*. 🌴

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A MILD CASE OF DCS, ANYONE?

Don't Rationalize Away Decompression Sickness Symptoms

Personal Background: Female, age 31, in good active health but about 15 percent overweight. PADI certified rescue diver with about 50 hours underwater; mostly wreck diving off Miami, Florida.

THE DIVE

On this particular Saturday the water was about 84°F, with two to four foot seas. Visibility was great and the Gulf Stream was running about two knots, which left quite a bow wake when the dive boat was at anchor. Because we were two of the more experienced divers on the boat this day, the captain asked me and my husband to be first in—which we proudly obliged.

Once in the water, I encountered a problem with the tag line which ran from the stern platform to the anchor line. The shackle kept sliding up the anchor line right to the bow cleat owing to the pull of the current. It was quite a strenuous job pulling the shackle forward and down so I could reach the anchor line to begin my descent. (Does the word "strenuous" ring a bell?)

The descent was quite a job as well. Hand over hand down the anchor line in a two knot current was like a tug-o-war. Looking into the current caused my second stage to freeflow. Looking away from the current caused my mask to flood. I think I heard the captain remark this was going to be a real macho dive.

At the bottom, 130 feet, it was really beautiful: very little current, good visibility and warm Florida water with just a hint of the "rapture."

Beginning our ascent at nine minutes 30 seconds (figured as 10 minutes) I arrived on the boat deck feeling a bit dizzy and really tired. I lay down for a few minutes and took a fruit snack. After an hour's surface interval I was ready for our second dive to another wreck 60 feet down for 25 minutes. (Are you still following the tables?) I was feeling fit again.

THREE HOURS LATER

Dinner didn't help that tired feeling which returned later. I even cheated on my diet thinking the extra food would

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help. By mid-evening my legs began to ache a little but I wrote it off as the results of combating the current. And, when my left arm began to ache too, I wrote that off as muscle strain from fighting the troublesome shackle. After all, it really didn't hurt much! (This is called rationalization.)

Ah, the next day; what a good night's sleep can accomplish! My legs were all better and my arm—well there was surely something strange about it now. The discomfort was still there. Movement had no effect on it and it burned now, as well as ached, from my collar bone to the knuckles. The top of my hand was numb.

The rest of the day was the usual Sunday; we took our four year old daughter to Grandma's for lunch and swimming. But as the shadows of evening fell, the burning and numbness were becoming worrisome and my husband joked that maybe I'd gotten the bends. In his usual manner, he hauled out all his medical books and dive manuals (he's just a frustrated doctor at heart). He poured over them and concluded we'd nothing to lose by calling the Divers Alert Network (DAN) for a little tete-a-tete at 10:15 pm. I thought he was crazy. It had been 28 hours since the dive and I really wasn't feeling all that bad, just peculiar.

DAN TO THE RESCUE

The kindly doctor at DAN said it was off to the NOAA recompression chamber with me and that a local diving doctor would call us back in five minutes with instructions. We got the call and were told to meet him at the NOAA facility on Virginia Key (Miami) at 11:00 pm. Sheer panic! Did you ever try to call a baby sitter at 10:30 pm on a school night?

It was only a 30 minute drive from our house to the NOAA chamber and I was queasy the whole way. It had to be nerves because I was numb to the soul by now.

By the time my husband and I arrived, a doctor, two chamber attendants and a facility director were there. As for the chamber itself, it looked like something out of *Star Wars*. You could drive a VW into this thing in which I was about to be sealed for the next two and a half hours. This was not my idea of sport diving!

For the next eternity there was nothing but heat, noise, sweat, on and off with the oxygen mask and millions of embarrassing medical questions. My very sweet inside attendant was well prepared with all sorts of gross looking emergency medical apparatus. But worst of all, with the fluids I was drinking, I really needed to urinate. The chamber bathroom consisted of one male hospital urinal sitting between me and the inside attendant. So much for going to the bathroom!

My husband spent the time snacking and chatting with the others on the outside. He was really mad he forgot to bring his camera and thought it was all very exciting since my life wasn't at stake.

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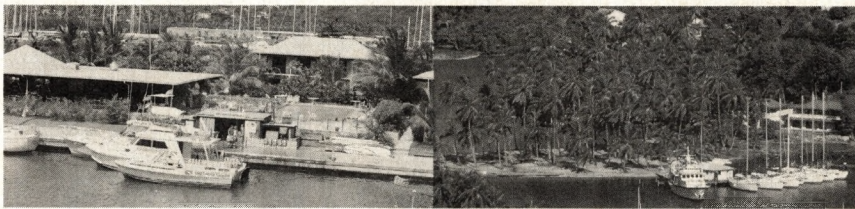
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A MILD CASE OF DCS?

We didn't get to bed that morning until 4:00 am and then it was up again at 7:00 am to take our daughter to school. From there it was off to outpatient hyperbaric oxygen treatments twice a day for the next four days at a local hospital. Morning and night, morning and night, *ad nauseum*, in a clear plexiglass coffin for 90 minutes per "dive" without a fish or wreck to enjoy. Is this any way to dive?

PROGNOSIS

It's been three weeks now since the dive and my arm is 100 percent better. I've been ordered not to dive for three months and for the next three months thereafter, I may dive only half tables and no deeper than 60 feet. I'm told there will be no residual damage to the joints or nerves nor any enhanced susceptibility to decompression sickness in the future.

OK table buffs, can you find what went wrong? Well you won't find it on the face of the U.S. Navy Dive Tables because what went wrong was all in the footnotes. Yeah, like the small print on the back! But let's review it in detail because next time it could be someone's life, like mine!

1) Never dive to the no decompression limit. Pick a dive time one group back from the limit. The venerable tables are reputed to normally bend two percent of the Navy's healthy, young divers at best, anyway. Us weekend sport divers just are not made of the same stuff. So why take chances?

Being female, with a higher ratio of fat to tissue than males, creates a higher rate of nitrogen uptake with a greater risk of bends. Being overweight, even if just a little, only aggravates this risk. Now add age 31 to the problem and it begins to get tricky. Anyone out there in their 40s?

2) Use the next shorter time group for a strenuous dive. Strenuous is not a conclusion you come to after surfacing; it's a condition that can arise during or even before a dive begins.

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My strenuous condition arose while fighting with the tag line shackle in four foot seas before I descended. It was then that I should have aborted the dive considering how little bottom time there would have been left at 130 feet when also following the above rule on not diving to the no decompression limits.

Because of the lowered blood sugar levels of my dieting, a strenuous condition was brought on far sooner than anticipated. Now throw in a little narcosis and it's quite possible to be unaware of the accumulating strain until it's too late!

3) Ascend at a rate of one foot per second; no faster and quite importantly enough, no slower. Remember how the increment of delay in an ascent is to be added to the bottom time? Well delay means more than a late start; it also means too slow an ascent rate.

Earlier I mentioned that the scope of the anchor line was quite played out owing to the stiff current. Well, that anchor line must have been a good 40 to 50 degrees off the vertical. Ascending hand over hand, one foot per second, on the anchor line was only producing about a six inch per second vertical ascent. Consequently, an ascent which should have been accomplished in 130 seconds took 240 seconds, causing more nitrogen uptake than the dive plan contemplated. No wonder my dive timer read 13½ minutes when we surfaced though we began our ascent at nine minutes, 30 seconds.

4) Always take a two minute safety decompression stop at ten feet when diving to 60 feet or greater. I swear to you we always took that safety stop when diving 60 feet or more. Why we didn't this day is still a mystery to my husband and me. Maybe it was the heavy traffic going up and down the anchor line; maybe it was the gathering rain storm; maybe it was the four foot seas; the current; the fates; maybe, maybe, maybe. "Maybe" is the stuff of which accidents are made! You can be sure we'll never make that mistake again!

5) When any DCS symptom occurs after a dive, presume it's DCS. Do not rationalize it away no matter how slight.

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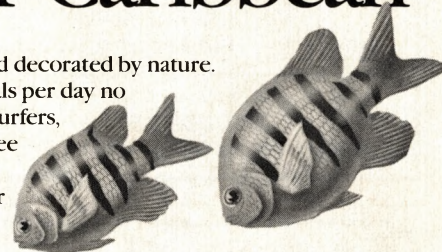
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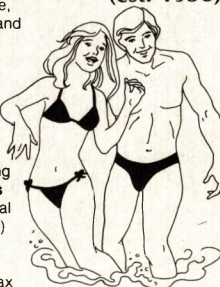
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A MILD CASE OF DCS?

DCS symptoms do not go away with a little rest and left untreated could leave lasting tissue damage. Time is of the essence and any delay in getting to a recompression chamber only complicates the treatment. In my case, I should have gone to the chamber right after dinner that evening. That was when the tired feeling returned, despite nourishment and my legs began to ache. Waiting for the next late evening was sheer folly; a 28 hour delay.

Though my symptoms had always been slight, the delay could have rendered them permanent but for the extensive hyperbaric oxygen treatments following the recompression chamber. I was very lucky to be in competent hands.

EPILOGUE

I'm quite fine now with no lasting symptoms or damage and I just don't know how I'll last out the many months until I can return to full diving. But I'm not going to rush it; I'll be patient.

This whole affair has been quite an education in diving safety and attention to detail. It's made me and my husband very, very conservative divers. We've also concluded that considering the risks and very short bottom times involved in diving deeper than 100 feet, it's not worth getting the gear full of saltwater.

The only question this wonderful education has not answered for me is: How in the heck are we ever going to pay off \$2,500 in medical bills?

A mild case of DCS anyone? 

STDC/VIRGIN GRAND

The St. Thomas Diving Club has opened a dive center at the new Virgin Grand, a Wyndham Hotel. Formerly Pineapple Beach Resort, the Virgin Grand is on the North Shore of St. Thomas, offering easy access to some of the best USVI dive sites.

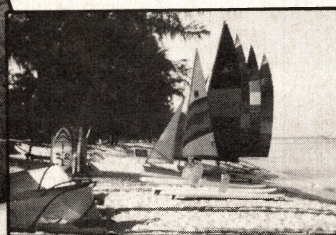
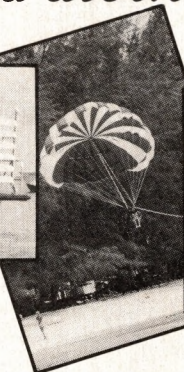
Mohawk II, the pride of the fleet of the St. Thomas Diving Club, will be docked at the Virgin Grand and will be offering morning and afternoon dive trips. *Mohawk II* is 68 feet long, has eight private staterooms and a crew of four PADI dive-masters and instructors.

In addition to catering to certified divers, the St. Thomas Diving Club will also offer scuba instruction at the Virgin Grand from resort courses to full PADI certification. Trips to the Baths of Virgin Gorda and twilight cocktail cruises will be available for non-divers.

The St. Thomas Diving Club is the largest dive operation in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, with dive centers at Villa Olga, Bolongo Bay Beach and Tennis Club, Limetree Beach Hotel, Pt. Pleasant as well as the new Virgin Grand. 



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If the divers do not utilize all of the vouchers involved in the package, they may receive a refund directly from AmeriTravel. The three day/two night/four dive program includes an economy car with unlimited mileage. Full week packages are available. Any of the AmeriTravel packages can be booked with or without the car. All AmeriTravel dive packages qualify for low-cost inclusive tour air fares and can be booked directly with AmeriTravel or through your travel agent or dive store.

VI DIVE/YACHT CHARTERS

Virgin Islands Water Safaris (a division of Regency International Yacht Charters), is offering a comprehensive line of dive/yacht charter vacation packages. This will make available many of the more than 300 fully crewed yachts offered through Regency, in St. Thomas, USVI.

The three major options being offered include: dive/sail, while living aboard a sailing yacht; dive/power, while living aboard a motor yacht; and the rendezvous, a package that offers the diver a choice of any yacht in the fleet, with high speed dive boats meeting the yacht each morning for a day of diving. The flexibility and relaxation inherent in this vacation alternative even allow non-diving members of a group or family something more than a beach at a hotel.

CAYMAN WHOLESALE

Scuba Tours, Inc. of Little Falls, NJ has been appointed regional wholesaler for the Cayman Islands Hotel Association.

Scuba Tours' dive travel reservations system enables divers, tour operators, travel agents, dive stores and scuba clubs to confirm airline space, accommodations and diving in the Caymans with a single toll free call. Knowledgeable agents, who are also divers, are there to answer all questions.

Unlimited dive packages are available through Scuba Tours for individuals and groups, featuring Don Foster's Dive Grand Cayman, Ltd.

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- Coco View Resort in FL—(813) 973-0651 US—800-282-8932
- Roatan Lodge in CA—(619) 487-7657 US—800-231-6560

BARBARETA

- Barbareta Beach Club U.S.—(205) 471-2314 Call Collect

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- Bayman Bay Club U.S.—(305) 525-8413 Call Collect

For further information write to: **Bay Islands Dive Resorts Association**
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"A diving destination comes along that is so unspoiled and full of visual appeal it dazzles even the most seasoned traveller. Such a place is in the Bay Islands." *Skin Diver magazine*

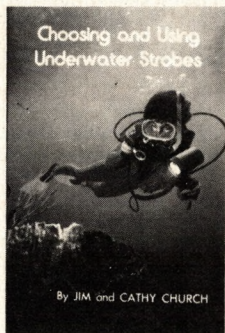
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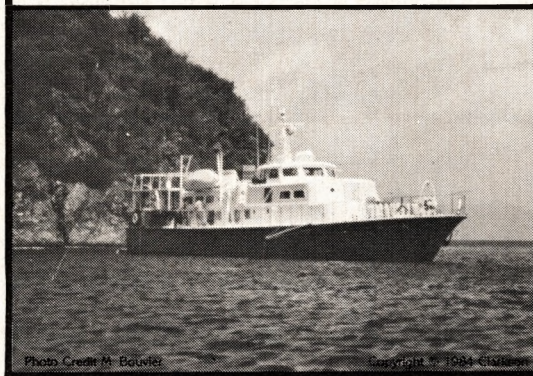


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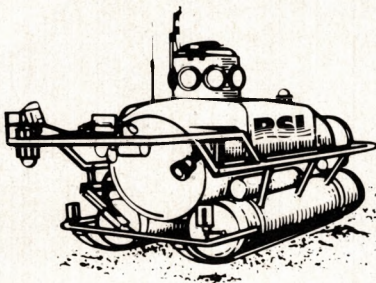
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DIVE IN AUSTRALIA

In order to more effectively serve the rapidly growing American dive market, Dive in Australia is collaborating with See & Sea Travel, Inc.

According to David Loughnan, president of Dive in Australia, there are two major reasons for this. See & Sea is a proven leader in the international dive travel vacation market. Also, See and Sea's decision two years ago to enter the hotel, resort and dive cruise market means it can offer competitive prices while maintaining quality. Dive in Australia will be a separate division of See & Sea, headed by Kim Rodman.

As a result of this joint venture, Dive in Australia will streamline its service and communications with clients in the U.S. Moreover, it will guarantee competitive rates on air fares, hotels and dive cruises in Australia. >

NAUI COLLEGE COURSE

Starting this year, NAUI College has expanded its 10 week professional instructor course curriculum. More emphasis is being placed on dive store and resort management training in the form of intern work. Additionally, there will be more class sessions at nearby NAUI Headquarters, utilizing the educational and management expertise of the executive staff.

For a curriculum guide or other information on the school's programs, contact the school office in Newport Beach, California. >

FISHEYE/RED SEA

Fisheye Photographic Services of Grand Cayman is offering another departure for its 1985 schedule of Red Sea Diving Seafaris. The trip, led by photo/dive specialist Courtney Platt, will depart June 11 and will include ten days of unlimited diving aboard the M/V *Suelyn*.

This departure is in addition to five others to be led by such diving notables as Robert Holland, Martin J. Sutton and Ed Uditis. >

BERRY SCUBA TESTS EQUIPMENT

In keeping with its dedication to serve the customer, Berry Scuba recently sent several of its employees and hundreds of pieces of scuba equipment to Branford, Florida for a week of test dives. "We had several objectives in mind," said Richard Drew, vice-president and director of advertising for Berry Scuba. "We wanted to try some of the newest diving products firsthand. It's one thing to read a report, but it's different in the water. Now, our employees can relate firsthand experience to the customers." The expedition was sent to Troy Spring, a popular local dive site in Branford. >

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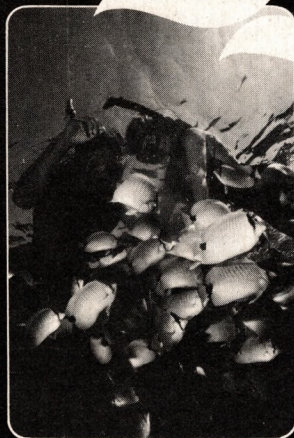
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WRECK FACTS

(Continued from Page 14)

Submarine enthusiasts might be interested in a new book, *U-Boat Commander*, by Peter Cremer. A true-life thriller written by one of three senior submarine commanders who survived WW II, the book conveys the realities of war and the trauma experienced by captain and crew when the hunters became the hunted. The book and a catalogue of over 250 naval and maritime titles may be ordered from Nancy Kunkel, Naval Institute Press, United States Naval Institute, Annapolis, Maryland 21402.

David Barron, Newfoundland, Canada, writes: "A poster, *Shipwrecks of St. John's Harbor and Approaches*, is being sold on behalf of the Newfoundland and Labrador Underwater Federation. A beautiful collector's item, the professionally illustrated 36 x 23 inch poster depicts 200 years of shipwrecks, the result of long hours of extensive research. Divers may order it by sending \$6 to the Newfoundland and Labrador Underwater Federation, Box 8301B, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada A1B 3N7."

Pete Hess, Dover, Delaware, says that he has been diving on some American privateers sunk in the Mullica River, west of Atlantic City, New Jersey. The Atlantic Alliance for Maritime Heritage Conservation, Washington DC, is arranging a non-profit cooperative salvage effort with the state of New Jersey in order to recover artifacts from the privateers.

Mick O'Connor, Islamorada, Florida, is interested in wrecks of the Florida Keys and wants to know if there is a book available. There is one hot off the press, Mick: *Diving and Snorkeling Guide to the Florida Keys* by John and Judy Halas and Don Kincaid. The book includes many wrecks. It is one of over 15 publications on diving put out by Pisces Books.

Divers may send for a catalogue by writing to Laurie Coskiano, Pisces Books, PBC International, Box 678, Locust Valley, NY 11560. The Florida Keys book is \$8.95 plus postage.

Andrew Ho-Tung, Kingston, Jamaica, writes: "Can you tell me if there are any books on shipwrecks off Jamaica?" Thanks for your letter, Andrew. I don't know of any specific book on shipwrecks around Jamaica. SKIN DIVER had an article in March 1983, about Jamaica. Contact dive shops and clubs in Kingston, talk to fishermen and find some oldtimers who might recall ships wrecking on the reefs. Museums are good, too, in case you have one in Kingston. I will let you know if I discover a book that pinpoints wrecks in this area.

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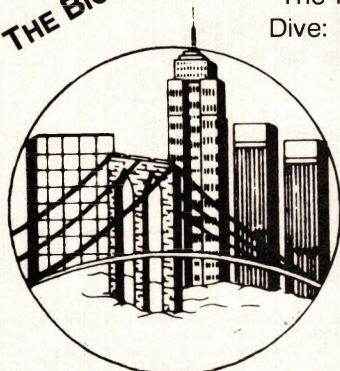
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MX-1

(Continued from Page 54)

plastic valves, which can be set for inflation or deflation by a quarter turn of the valve body.

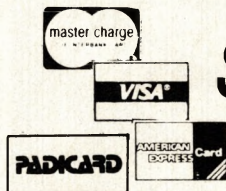
Although tiller steering is preferred in Italy, a fiberglass steering console is standard equipment on all MX-1s sold in

NOVURANIA MX-1

Length.....15'5"
Beam.....6'8"
Interior length.....11'
Interior width.....3'2"
Tube diameter.....21"
Number of tubes.....4
Material.....Trevira/neoprene/Hypalon
Hull.....Fiberglass deep-V
Maximum horsepower.....80
Capacity (w/seats)....8 persons/5 divers
Payload.....2,400 pounds
Weight.....290 pounds
Colors.....Gray/red/black

America. Also included is a wooden seat which covers the fuel tanks. Our test boat, supplied by Scott McIntosh of Port-a-Marine, Costa Mesa, California was equipped instead with his Bridge Command steering system. Scott feels his unit works better with the Mercury control box and offers it in place of the factory model at no additional cost. Padded seats with backrests were added as well. The driver sits two-thirds of the way to the rear of the boat, where the ride is the smoothest. I appreciated that in the three foot swells, wind waves and short interval chop which greeted us in the seas off Newport Beach. Powered by a 50 horsepower Mercury engine, the MX-1 took the seas in stride. Tracking was excellent, at both fast and slow speeds. On turns, it cut sharply with no sign of skidding. Although we were screaming around those turns, nobody got splashed—McIntosh credits the high bow and the stability of the deep-V hull. Coming back into the swell, the boat cut right through the waves. An ordinary inflatable would bounce and jar your fillings loose in this kind of sea. It was a good day to be out in an RIB.

The remote steering system, of course, took away some room for diving equipment storage. But those who buy a rigid inflatable value comfort and probably won't mind the trade-off. The price of all this performance and comfort is \$5,495 at your Novurania dealer. That includes the remote steering system and the standard seat, along with paddles, foot-pump and repair kit. Add another \$100 for the padded seat and you are ready to go diving in style. For further information, contact Novurania of America, 2909 Oregon Court, C-2, Torrance, CA 90503.



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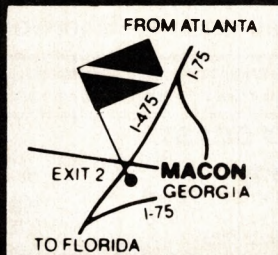
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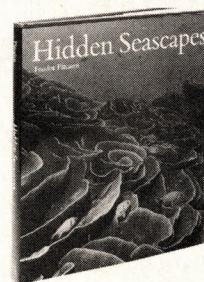
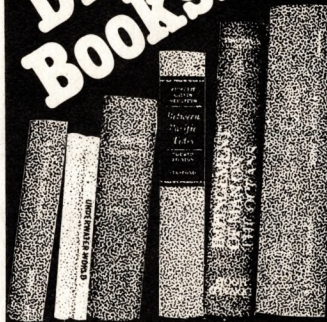


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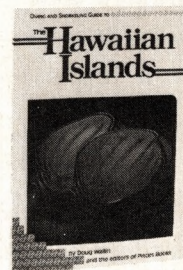
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- ___ Calf
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- ___ Wrist
- ___ Forearm
- ___ Elbow
- ___ Biceps
- ___ Ankle to Knee
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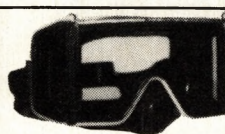
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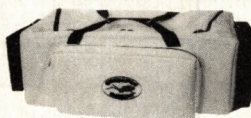
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SKIN DIVER MAY 1985 133

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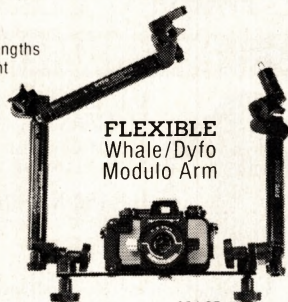
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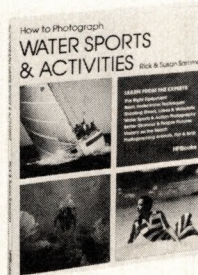
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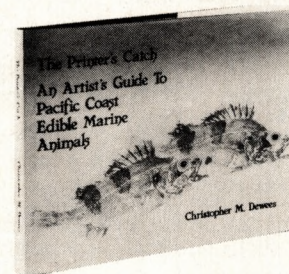
Diving and Snorkeling Guide to the Virgin Islands—By Stephen Bower, Bruce Nyden and the editors of Pisces Books, this book discusses the best dive sites off St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix. Information on dining and hotels. Many color photos and maps. Pisces Books. \$8.95.



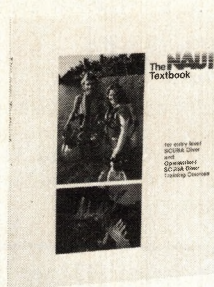
Finding New England's Shipwrecks and Treasures—By Robert Cahill, this book discusses a number of shipwrecks in this area, giving accounts of their sinking and, in many cases, of their discovery and study. \$3.95. Chandler-Smith Pub., Inc., 132 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA 01960.



How to Photograph Water Sports and Activities—By Rick and Susan Sammon, this book includes chapters on equipment, U/W photography, shooting at the beach, water shows and more. Photos illustrate the techniques. \$7.95. HP Books, Inc., P.O. Box 5367, Tucson, AZ 85703.



The Printer's Catch—Chris Dewees book examines 32 important fish and shellfish families of the Pacific Coast and illustrates each with at least one full page fish print. Techniques examined. \$26.95 hardcover. Sea Challengers, #4 Somerset Rise, Monterey, California 93940.



The NAUI Textbook—This guide is for Entry Scuba Experience, Skin Diver, Scuba Diver and Openwater I training courses. It promotes continuing education and includes recent emergency ascent procedures and more. \$13.95. NAUI, P.O. Box 14650, Montclair, CA 91763.

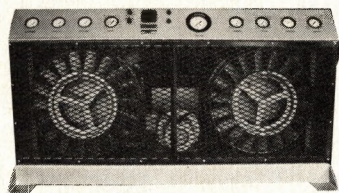


Diving and Snorkeling Guide to Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba—By George S. Lewbel, Ph.D. and the editors of Pisces Books, this guide details the dive sites off these three islands—depth, expertise required, marine life, accessibility, etc. Maps and color photos. \$8.95. Pisces Books.

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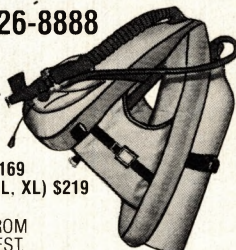
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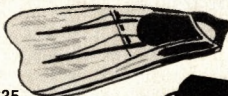
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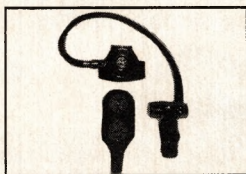
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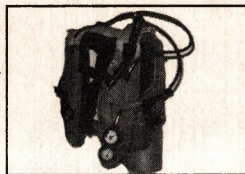
HEUER—Model #980.006 Quartz watch features a stainless steel body, date, rotating bezel, locking crown, tropic strap, and more! Retail \$250.00
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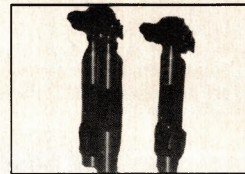
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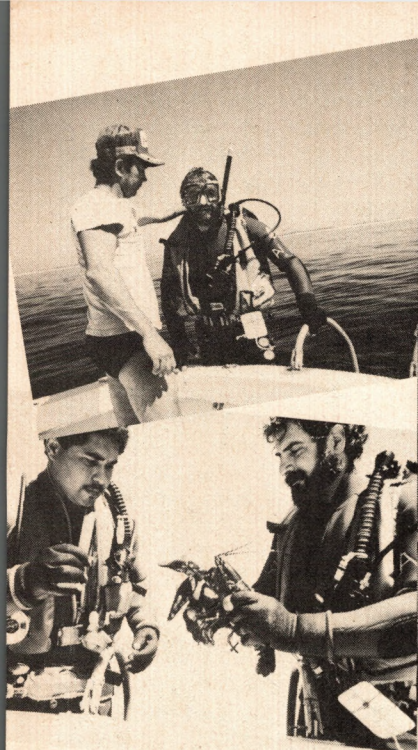
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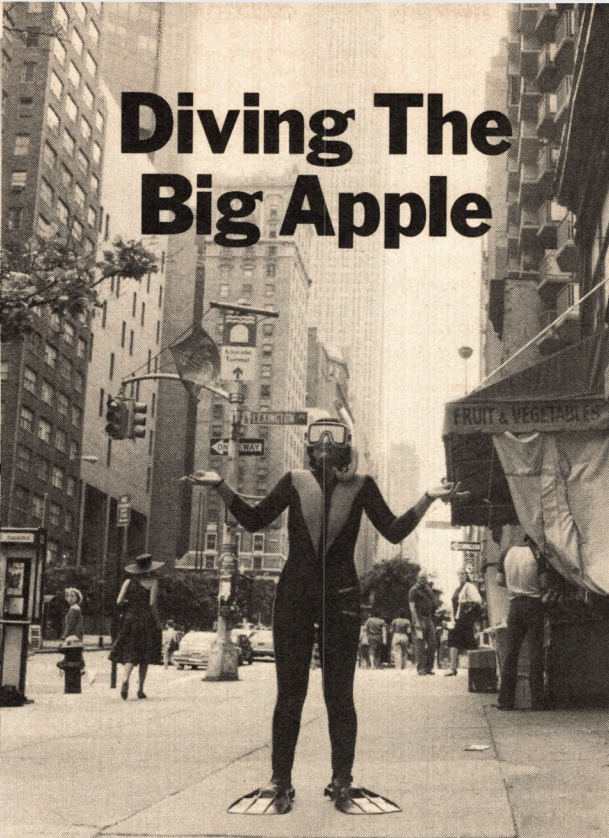
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Diving The Big Apple



photos/Bill Gleason



photo/Heather Bermejo



New York City: The Big Apple, center of commerce for the world. You travel to New York for business, top Broadway shows, to shop for next year's fashions and to visit the "best" restaurants. Normally, you don't go to New York for a diving weekend. That is, until Steve DaPuzzo, owner of the Scuba Exchange and Scuba Network in New York City, decided to offer divers a unique travel opportunity. He figured if he made it easy enough for divers to stay and dive in New York, they'd get a chance to try some diving that, while it's definitely not Grand Cayman, has a challenge, thrill and attraction all its own.

Dive New York City? Mention this to most divers in the U.S. and what you get back is jokes about the water. That's because most visitors to New York City see only the harbor and Hudson and East Rivers. While these latter helped create one of the greatest natural harbors in the world, as far as diving's concerned, that's the last good thing they did. Aside from commercial and police divers, the rivers are not dived because of current, extremely low visibility and hazardous obstructions.

So, where's the diving? Well, the rivers and harbor are just a tiny part of New York's marine resources. The northern coast of New Jersey and south coast of Long Island actually frame an area of the North Atlantic long known for its prolific fish life. Washed by the waters of the northern Gulf Stream, this area is very popular for wreck diving, spearfishing, U/W photography and lobstering.

The most popular type of diving in this

part of the U.S. is wreck exploration. Fires, storms, wars and "pilot error" have sent a large number of barges, freighters, passenger liners and military ships to the bottom over the last three centuries. It's possible to sample all these types of wrecks while diving in New York.

What's the attraction? For some divers, it's the thrill of visiting the wreck itself and knowing the tragic story of how the ves-

Where To Go And What To Do On The New York Diving Scene

BY JOE BERESWILL

sel was destroyed. With more than 2,000 shipwrecks in this part of the North Atlantic, there's a lifetime of diving opportunities. And, whenever a new wreck is found, the race is on to see who can dive and identify it first.

There's also the marine life. The nutrient rich waters of the North Atlantic play host to an amazing variety of marine animals. Just a few miles from the Empire State Building there are anemones as beautiful as their Caribbean counterparts. Macro photographers can have a field day shooting these delicate subjects. Since they're really artificial reefs, wrecks harbor exceptional fish life: cod, angel-fish, toutog, flounder and hake. And, there's lobster. Veteran wreck divers capture bugs weighing up to 20 pounds on infrequently dived wrecks. The most

commonly caught bugs are just more than legal size, about one to two pounds. "Shorts" are usually plentiful.

Safety and personal attention are the keys to learning how to dive and explore wrecks. These are also key elements in the wreck diving program offered by the Scuba Network. It begins with *Thermocline*, a 28 foot, twin diesel powered Topaz that's custom equipped for diving. Captain John Gyurtsak has all the latest electronic wreck finding gear: Loran, radar, depth recorder and radio direction finder. He limits the number of passengers to six and always has at least one (and often more) divemasters along to lead dives.

A normal dive day goes something like this: After loading your equipment, the captain and divemaster check C-cards and logbooks. They discuss the proposed dive, giving the history of the wreck and telling the divers what to expect. Before you go in the water, there is also an anchor orientation. The anchor line is the key to successful and safe wreck diving. Good wreck divers always descend on it, explore the wreck and then ascend on the anchor line. If there are novice wreck divers aboard, the divemaster, Richie Anzelowe, may even secure an additional line to the wreck that leads to the anchor. This way you always know how your position relates to the anchor and all you have to do is watch your air, enjoy your dive and keep a sharp lookout for lobsters. There is always a divemaster willing to lead the dive if a buddy team requests it. For first timers,

Hugh Downs is one of the few television personalities who is the same in person as he is on camera. A cordial, articulate host, he is usually so engrossed in bringing out the best in others, we seldom learn much about the adventurer who has piloted a hot air balloon, sailed his ketch around the world, beaten Paul Newman in auto racing and pioneered skin and scuba diving.

"I've done it all with great trepidation," Downs says, "except for the scuba diving which is total relaxation for me. I'm not a great diver, but I've been exposed to it quite often in my travels."

On the weekly television show 20/20, that Downs calls "a magazine of the air," he was afforded a once-in-a-lifetime adventure exploring the Spanish galleons of Anegada Reef with the "Lord of Shipwrecks," Bert Kilbride. Downs joined Kilbride, reporter Geraldo Rivera and producer Tim Cothorn aboard the 120 foot research vessel, *Okeanos*, on location in the British Virgin Islands. Attempts to salvage the Spanish galleon *San Ignacio* and the British renegade warship, *Defiance*—both over 200 years old—were focal points of the show.

"Greeting Hugh Downs was like old home week," Kilbride says. I knew him when he hosted the Today Show. I dove with him at Buck Island Park in the late '50s and early '60s with other famous people such as Jack Lescoolee, Herman Wouk and Pierre Salinger. A lot of people don't know it, but Hugh was a pioneer in using oil paints beneath the sea. Some of his seascapes of life on the Buck Island reefs capture the true beauty of our marine world."

During the seven day production on Anegada Reef, 20 miles east of Tortola—one of the most remote areas in the British Virgins—one of a dozen cannons and a 3,000 pound anchor were hoisted aboard the research vessel. Although the artifacts didn't reveal any markings, the configuration and construction indicated a mid-1700s wreck.

"It's funny," Kilbride recalls. "We were talking about treasure and I was explaining the magnetometer. I showed everybody the needle that depicts ferrous from non-ferrous metals and I said, 'Hugh, maybe you'll find a gold coin.'"

"Great! Hugh said, but I'll swallow it before I'll surrender it to anybody!"

"No, don't do that, I told him, because the magnetometer works on people too! We had a good laugh and then went back to work."

Producer Tim Cothorn says that Downs worked as hard as the rest of the crew during salvage efforts. "There were very harsh conditions one day," Cothorn relates. "The seas were heavy and there was no dive platform on the boat. Getting back aboard via a rinky dink ladder was rather hellish. But Hugh remained a real pro in adverse conditions, scrambling the ten feet from the water to the deck a lot



20/20 HOST HUGH DOWNS

Recounts Diving Adventures Spanning The Past Three Decades

BY ELLSWORTH BOYD

better than most of us."

Cothorn calls Downs "a walking encyclopedia," knowledgeable in aeronautics, space, diving, history and a myriad of other subjects. "He would kill you in the game, Trivial Pursuit," Cothorn concedes, "but one of his primary loves, and more than a trivial interest, is the sea."

Downs first started diving in the early '50s on the NBC Daytime Show in the pool of the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, California. "We did a segment on the rudiments of diving," Downs recalls, "and I got bitten by the diving bug. Later we journeyed to Silver Springs, Florida with Lloyd Bridges, famous then for his Sea Hunt series. We went diving in the springs everyday."

"Another early adventure was with SKIN DIVER Magazine's Paul Tzimoulis. Paul and I dove the shipwreck, *Onondaga*, off Watch Hill, Rhode Island. A steamer, sunk in 50 feet in 1918, she was purported to be carrying a cargo worth over \$1.5 million. We didn't locate any cargo but that's not surprising. The tide was running strong, the water wasn't very clear and it was cold—not the greatest diving conditions. But when you're bitten by the bug, you'll dive anywhere."

Downs' travels have been diversified since those early days. He has been diving off both coasts of the United States, the warm climes of the Virgin Islands, Windward Islands, St. Bart's, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Grenada, Hawaii, Australia and in the frigid waters of Alaska and the South Pole. One of his biggest

thrills was riding a manta ray off Australia's Heron Island.

"I grabbed him behind the gap between his eyes and boy, did he take off," Downs recalls. "Like a roller coaster, I held on for dear life, but he sounded and that was the end of my jaunt."

"I tried spearfishing, but soon gave it up. I felt sorry for the fish! I tried my hand at photography, but the results weren't so great so I leave that hobby for other divers. I enjoyed oil painting underwater when diving was in its infancy. Surprisingly, you can pick paint up with your brush underwater just as you do on land. I painted some seascapes, wrecks and reef formations while entertaining fish that swam by and nibbled the paint pallets!"

Downs was one of the first divers to ride a killer whale in captivity. He says: "The trainer and I were in a giant ocean pool in San Diego feeding this colossal killer whale pieces of fish underwater. The trainer, who had never ridden the whale but thought it could be done, was rubbing the creature's back with a kitchen sponge. The whale kept sticking his tongue out, so I rubbed this big, rough protrusion with the sponge. He seemed to like it and he seemed very friendly, so what the heck—I gave it a try. It was like being bare-back on a greased horse."

Other divers tried it later and now riding a 10,000 pound, 20 foot long mammal in captivity is a show-stopper at Sea World.

This love of sea creatures led to the adoption of a dolphin in the Florida Keys. "Milt Santini kept a dolphin in captivity in Marathon Key," Downs explains, "sort of a tourist exhibit. I called her Didi and later learned she was a male. But I swear that each time I visited and tossed in some fish, Didi recognized me. Didi was kept with Mitze who was really Flipper on the old TV show and it was difficult to tell them apart except for a couple of tooth marks on the side of one of them. John Pennekamp always preached freeing the dolphins to the wild so I talked Milt into letting Didi go. Didi is happy now, swimming in the protected waters of vast Pennekamp Park. But you know, it's funny... although that was a long time ago, tourists visiting the Keys today see a dolphin in captivity and still exclaim, 'There's Hugh Downs' dolphin!'"

This experience spurred the popular host's interest in dolphins, whales and seals and he has promoted efforts to help them. The 20/20 show has done memorable features on seals and whales. Parallel to this, Downs is strongly in favor of maintaining a clean and healthy environment and there are future plans for 20/20 features on this subject. In addition, if Downs gets his wish, he might return to Anegada to dive some more of the 180 shipwrecks that dot the immense horseshoe reef of the British Virgins that was a scourge to mariners in the 1700s.

Cothorn says, "The 20/20 program has expanded its format to include ad-

ventures such as diving because 50 to 70 million viewers are enjoying it. They especially enjoy Hugh's role because everything he does is kept in modest perspective. He is as genuine in person as he comes across on TV. At airports, restaurants—everywhere he goes he remains gracious with people. It's no wonder he's welcomed into millions of homes through the media of television."

Although Downs hosts ABC's 20/20 show, he also enters the field to report news stories other than diving. He has reported on bulimia; depression as a biochemical disease; the current state of American aircraft; and children's fear of nuclear war. He has received an Emmy Award, a National Council Film Award and a journalism citation. He still holds faculty status in communications at Arizona State University.



People still remember him as host of the Today Show, The Tonight Show and Concentration. He has also hosted Good Morning America and lectures throughout the country on a variety of subjects. He has authored: *Yours Truly, Hugh Downs*; *Rings Around Tomorrow*; *A Shoal of Stars*; *Potential*; *Thirty Dirty Lies About Old*; and *The Best Years Book*. Downs is president of the National Space Institute; a consultant to the center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara; and chairman of the board of the United States Committee for UNICEF.

He remains modest but reflective when asked about his secret to success. "I don't mean to sound frivolous," he says, "but basically I'm a devout coward. I engage in some activities and while they're going on I say to myself, 'Hey, you could get killed doing this!' But mostly I stack the cards in my favor, never underestimate my adversary and keep the faith. Most of all I advise people to follow through on ideas that they are enthused about and above all if there is an opportunity to acquire a skill, don't pass it up. Learn and keep learning as much as you possibly can."

For Hugh Downs, his 20/20 vision—both literally and figuratively—is a means to a personal accomplishment. For 30 years his career in radio and television has led him to the far corners of the globe to seek knowledge and skills and bring news and entertainment back to the people, millions of whom are rooting for his continued success.

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HAWK'S CAY RESORT & MARINA MM 61, Marathon, FL 33050 Tennis, pools, jacuzzis, reef trips, PADI. Custom-built dive boats, air/equip. rental, instr., pkg. rates.	US 800/327-7775 FL 800/432-2242 305/743-9000
HOLIDAY ISLE DIVE & SWIM CENTER P.O. Box 482, Islamorada, FL 33036 MM 84.5 New dive boat. Group rates and scuba instruction.	305/664-4145 FL-800/432-2875 US-800/327-7070
HURRICANE AQUA-CENTER — CAPT. ED DAVIDSON 10800 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, FL 33050 New location. Same deep discount prices. US Divers. Personalized dive/snorkel trips and instruction.	305/743-2400
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KEY SEA CENTER P.O. Box 515, Big Pine Key, FL 33043 MM29.5 Dive Looe Key, custom dive boat, free air w/trips. Rentals, sales, PADI instruction.	305/872-2319
KEY WEST PRO DIVE SHOP, INC. 1605 N. Roosevelt Bl., Key West, FL 33040 Instruction, sales, service, charters, air. Private instruction and open water checkouts.	305/296-3823
LADY CYANA DIVERS P.O. Box 1157, Islamorada, FL 33036 MM 85.9 Daily reef trips aboard our 40' and 60' custom dive boats. Rentals, air, sales, service, instruction, group rates, packages.	305/664-8717
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PENNEKAMP STATE PARK CONCESSION Box 13M, MM 102.5, Key Largo, FL 33037 The only dive shop located directly in Pennekamp. Free brochure, send 50¢ for reef chart.	305/451-1621 800/432-2871
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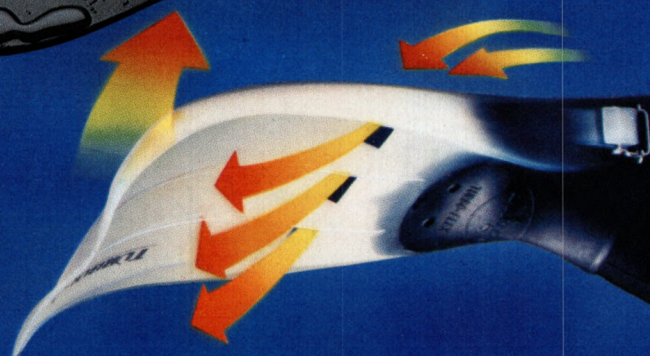
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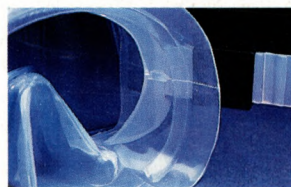
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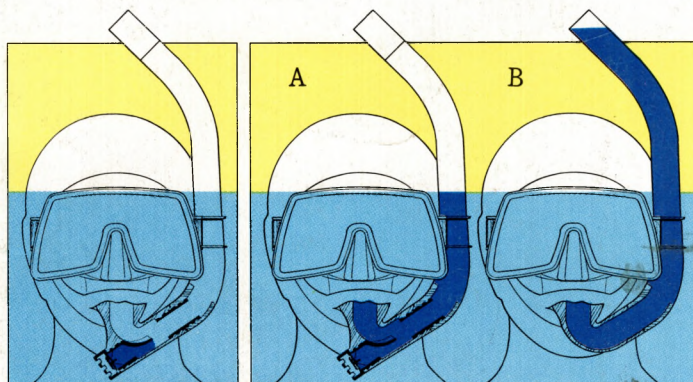
Low volume design, including tempered-glass lenses and impact-resistant frames, provides high peripheral visibility and easy clearing.



Unique, patented straps with lifetime, springless buckles allow quick, one-handed mask adjustments—underwater.



Orthodontic mouthpiece reduces jaw fatigue.



Reservoir captures water splashes for dry breathing.

Exhaust valve "gravity drains" snorkel automatically as diver surfaces (A), unlike ordinary snorkels (B).



U.S.DIVERS®